Potential Topics for Masters Students within the BODE³ Programme – Housing & Health Interventions

The BODE³ Programme is conducting a cost-effectiveness study of housing interventions to improve health with dedicated funding from the University of Otago over the 2013-2015 period. The study is headed by Dr Frank Pega and conducted collaboratively with Professor Tony Blakely, Associate Professor Nick Wilson and other BODE³ team members. It is one of the globally first health economic analyses of housing interventions and indeed - more broadly - of interventions for addressing the social determinants of health and health equity.

As part of this broader study, we invite applications for Masters Degree projects. A range of options for dissertations (e.g., literature reviews) or theses (e.g., more comprehensive economic model conceptualisation and development) related to the following topic areas are available:

1. The cost-effectiveness of heat pump installation in NZ homes.
2. The cost-effectiveness of retrofitting of insulation in NZ homes.
4. The cost-effectiveness of removing unflued gas heaters from NZ homes ([a] removal of existing heaters from residential homes or [b] restriction of sales of heaters for residential use by law).

The primary supervisor will be Dr Frank Pega, with further supervisory support provide by Professor Tony Blakely and Associate Professor Nick Wilson. Additional expertise in these topic areas abounds in this University campus, especially with He Kainga Oranga, the Housing and Health Research Programme.

Masters students will have the opportunity to develop several skills through this programme of study, including conducting systematic reviews, modelling burden of disease, modelling costs, and conducting a full economic analysis. These skills are highly sought after in national government departments such as Ministries of Health and health economic institutes such as the UK National Institute of Health and Care Excellence, as well as international organisations such as the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

Please direct initial enquiries to Dr Frank Pega (frank.pega@otago.ac.nz) along with a CV.