

School of Public Health - PhD Student Project

Title: Improving health through monitoring physical markers in people with psychosis.
([QCMHR](#))

Supervisor/s: Professor [Harvey Whiteford](#), Ms [Meredith Harris](#), Dr [Amanda Baxter](#),
Associate Professor [Dan Siskind](#)

Funding: Student Scholarship required, top-up funding available to suitable candidate

Student Objectives:

- Advance understanding of how we can improve the physical health and reduce risk of chronic disease in people with psychotic disorders
- Learn and apply a variety of qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques
- Provide regular research updates through oral and written presentations
- Interact with team members in order to optimise research outcomes

Project Outline:

People with mental disorders have a much shorter life expectancy compared with the general population, and the majority of these premature deaths are caused by preventable physical conditions. Addressing the health gap for individuals with severe mental disorders means more than just improving mental health care, but also ensuring they receive the same level of general healthcare as the rest of the population.

The reason for not having more committed implementation of screening and monitoring for physical disease in people with mental disorders may be a lack of knowledge around what types of interventions, and aspects of interventions, are effective in this group. Other potentially modifiable barriers may also be present for both patients and clinicians.

This PhD will focus on understanding systematic and attitudinal barriers to physical health care in this population and their implication for changing healthcare practices.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD in Public Health
- Multiple scientific papers in good research journals
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences