

Title: Quantification of the comorbidity associated with mental and substance use disorders and implications for global burden of disease analyses. (QCMHR)

Supervisor/s: [Prof Harvey Whiteford](#) and [Dr Alize Ferrari](#)

Funding: Student Scholarship required

Student Objectives:

- Advanced understanding of public health research methods
- Advance understanding of mental health epidemiology
- Proficiency in conducting systematic literature reviews and quantitative analysis techniques.
- Ability to prepare peer reviewed publications.
- Ability to keep to designated timelines.
- Ability to work independently and with other members of the research team where necessary.

Project Outline:

The Global Burden of Disease Study 2010 (GBD 2010) highlighted mental and substance use disorders as leading causes of health loss (or disease burden). However, GBD 2010 analyses sought to remove the effect of comorbidity between different mental and substance use disorders and also between mental and substance use disorders and other diseases and injuries so that the burden attributable to each individual disorder could be quantified. In reality, mental and substance use disorders rarely occur in isolation. Disorders like anxiety disorders, depressive disorders and substance use disorders are highly comorbid with other diseases and injuries.

Specific Aims:

This project could include the following aims:

- Systematically review and summarise literature available on the comorbidity associated with mental and substance use disorders.
- Quantifying (1) the comorbidity between different mental and substance use disorders and (2) the commodity between mental and substance use disorders and other diseases and injuries.
- Explore the implication of these findings for burden of disease analyses.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD in population health or mental health epidemiology.
- First authored publications in peer reviewed journals.
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences.

Please look at the following websites for more information: www.qcmhr.uq.edu.au