

POSITION	Senior Research Officer – Social Sciences	STATUS	Part time
REPORTS TO	Chief Executive Officer / Executive Manager, Corporate Communications	LOCATION	Cheltenham - Head Office
BETTER PLACE AUSTRALIA VISION			
<p>Better Place Australia has a vision of “<i>An Australia where all people experience positive relationships, truly value each other and live safer, more confident lives</i>”. As a community focused not-for-profit organisation with an ever-growing range of psychological and community support services, Better Place Australia is taking a leadership role in the provision of high-quality, effective services for a wide range of community groups across 25 locations in Victoria. This is an opportunity to join our expanding team of highly experienced and passionate people who want to make Australia a better place.</p>			
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF ROLE			
<p>Better Place Australia has recently established its own research and policy unit called the <i>Centre for Better Relationships</i>. The vision of the Centre is to “<i>become a research and policy leader in the family and relationships field dedicated to improving the lives of people and their families through meaningful research, knowledge translation and dissemination of research to a wide range of audiences</i>”.</p> <p>The primary purpose of this role is to work with the CEO and the Executive Manager Corporate Communications to take the establishment of the Centre to the next level by heading up high quality research projects, writing publications and developing content to support policy and advocacy activities aligned to the programs delivered by Better Place Australia. Specific objectives of the role include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Centre’s reputation as a knowledge leader in the families and relationships field. • Scope, initiate and manage governance of research projects. • Position the Centre as a knowledge hub for practitioners in the sector. • Identify and develop research content to support policy and advocacy activities. • Use research to elevate the brand and reputation of Better Place. • Contribute to the effectiveness of Better Place services by identifying and measuring evidenced based approaches to service delivery in close collaboration with other areas of Better Place Australia. • Contribute to Better Place Australia’s data architecture and outcomes frameworks. • Provide advice to internal stakeholders on the development of papers for sector conferences. • Contribute to development of a public health framework for service delivery informed by prevention. • Grow the Centre by identifying, applying for and attracting research grants. • Contribute to the organisation becoming a prominent & credible media commentator on key issues impacting communities. 			
ROLE REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the research and development calendar. • Guided by the research steering group, lead and conduct the research design, development and in-field application including the collection and analysis of data, reporting writing and dissemination. 			

- Provide professional expertise and skills in research methodology, research design, data collection, data analysis, and the interpretation and presentation of research and evaluation results.
- Contribute to the development of outcome evaluation frameworks across the Better Place services portfolio.
- Provide oversight on research, policy and advocacy areas where Better Place could make a unique and useful contribution.
- Contribute to briefings for key sector peaks, government policy development processes and sector practice development generally.
- Develop research networks and partnerships including partnerships with research institutions.
- Contribute to the development of priorities that help leverage and strengthen key stakeholder engagement and advocacy activities.
- Based on research and evaluation data, and taking into consideration what is already published on the subject matter, take a lead in:
 - Writing journal publications and organisational reports,
 - Presenting at conferences, workshops and symposiums,
 - Forming & maintaining collaborations with universities.
- Ensure the development of the Centre for Better Relationship website and other digital platforms optimises the distribution of publications and sector engagement
- Other duties as required and which are consistent with the position

Quality & Compliance

- Ensure any quality risks are identified and reported promptly and that prevention strategies are implemented to ensure the safety of all clients and staff.
- Maintain a good working knowledge and understanding of the QIC Health and Community Standards.
- Pursue opportunities for quality improvement, and actively contribute to the accreditation of the service being delivered.
- Participate in regular audit processes to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory bodies is maintained.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of service manuals in accordance with contract and program requirements.
- Ensure Better Place Australia's services comply with applicable funding contracts, including reporting requirements.

Other

- Other duties as assigned and which are consistent with the position.
- Ensure compliance with Better Place Australia's Code of Conduct and related organisational policy material.
- Contribute to a culture of health and safety.
- Identify potential hazards and implement appropriate risk mitigation responses in so far as is reasonably practicable.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Appropriate tertiary qualifications such as social science, health science, public health or social policy with a strong applied research component.
- Demonstrated extensive experience in a similar research role incorporating the development and implementation and evaluation of research activities.
- Skills in synthesis of information from diverse sources and drawing out implications for practice.
- Highly developed qualitative and quantitative research design and data analysis skills.
- Demonstrable writing experience ideally highlighting subject matter expertise within a related families, relationship, mental health or aged care areas.
- High level communication and interpersonal skills, including experience collaborating with national and international research organisations and with commercial partners to develop effective and productive networks.
- Experience managing, monitoring and making informed recommendations on research projects and

budgets.

- Proficient in the use of computer applications including MS Office (including Word, Access/databases and Excel spreadsheets).
- Well-developed business and organisational skills.
- Ability to work autonomously with minimal direction.
- Ability to work with a wide range of people across multidisciplinary teams and handle urgent and sensitive matters with high levels of discretion and professionalism.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Better Place Australia is a not-for-profit organisation and we provide services for all members of the community regardless of religion, age, gender, sexuality, lifestyle choice, cultural background or economic circumstances. We offer a workplace culture reflective of a vibrant, learning organisation where our people are highly engaged in their work and committed to making a difference. Our organisation is committed to child safety and we carry out police record, working with children and reference checks to ensure that we are recruiting the right people.