



MASSEY UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Research Assistant (DT Ambassadors) School of Social Work

Location: Canterbury, Otago, Wellington, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, Wanganui and Hawkes Bay

Purpose Statement: To undertake interviews in support of a Marsden research grant by interviewing staff members, older people and their family members at residential and care facilities and/or community care programmes about their experiences of sexuality and intimacy.

Responsible to: Professor Mark Henrickson (for research related activities)
Head of School of Social Work (for contractual obligations)

Key Accountability Areas:

- i. Introduce the project to RACF managers and staff.
- ii. Distribution and recovery of paper surveys to RACF staff.
- iii. Undertake interviews with residents and family.
- iv. Undertake interviews with RACF staff, in particular Māori and Pasifika staff.
- v. Undertake interviews of at least one manager and one senior clinical staff person at each site.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications:

- Minimum requirement is a BSW or similar; a professional qualification or registration is preferred
- **DT's with the Level 4 Qualification applying for this role should be Registered DT's and have a strong background interviewing.**
- New Zealand driving licence and access to a vehicle are required

Experience:

Demonstrated capability in:

- Sourcing and analysing information independently;
- Understanding ethics in research, ability to make on-the-spot ethical decisions, and awareness to refer complex ethical decisions to manager or research team
- Research interviewing and building short-term relationships with older persons, their families and caregivers;
- Understanding of sexuality, intimacy and dementias in older persons;
- General computing skills, particularly Microsoft suite of software including Outlook, Excel, and Word, ability to upload audio files to cloud transfer and storage

Attributes and skills:

- High level of oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team;
- Basic understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Ability to plan, organise and administer own work;
- Ability to work collaboratively with academic and administrative staff;
- Sound understanding of ethics in research;
- Respect for, and interest in, older people, their families, and care staff who work with them;
- Respect for, and interest in, cultural diversity
- Understanding of the presentation of dementias, and an ability to work sensitively with older people living with dementias;
- Ability to talk about sexuality and intimacy in older persons with older persons, their family members and care staff;
- Excellent administrative skills, including word processing, internet communication;
- Ability to manage supplied audio recording equipment.

For more information, please contact:

Advisory Board Member for Massey University's Marsden Grant (Ethics of intimacy and sexuality in residential aged care).

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