

Mailing addressKristelle Hudry
Victorian ASELCC, La Trobe
Community Children's Centre
Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora
Victoria 3086 Australia

T + 61 3 9479 5649

F + 61 3 9479 1956

E k.hudry@latrobe.edu.au
latrobe.edu.au/otarc

Level A/B Researcher

Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre (ASELCC)

A **Level A or B research-only academic** is sought to contribute to the research program underway at the Victorian Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre (ASELCC). The Researcher will work under the primary supervision of Dr Kristelle Hudry, Senior Research Fellow at the Victorian ASELCC and member of the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC). The Researcher will be based at the Victorian ASELCC (La Trobe University's Bundoora [Melbourne] campus) though the role will involve travel to collect data at other early intervention sites around Melbourne.

The position, available for immediate start, is associated with new projects for which ongoing staffing requirements are still being established. The current appointment will be on a casual basis, and there is flexibility in the number of hours required per week during 2016 (minimum 2-days but up to 5-days per week, depending on the availability of the appointee). The position may therefore suit a current post-graduate student in the final stages of completing their PhD/Prof. Doctorate.

Background

The Victorian ASELCC is one of six centres across Australia funded by the federal Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide specialist child care and learning opportunities for young children and their families through the Helping Children with Autism Package. Research is integral to the ASELCC, and research and clinical/educational staff at the Victorian ASELCC and La Trobe's OTARC work closely together to undertake major projects evaluating children's outcomes.

DSS has recently funded the Victorian ASELCC team to conduct two innovative projects across 2016-2018 and the current appointment is to support the establishment of these new projects.

The Position

A Level A or B research academic is expected to contribute toward the research efforts of the centre and the University, and to develop their own research expertise within specific projects.

The researcher appointed to this position will support the Senior Research Fellow to conduct funded projects at the Victorian ASELCC. The Researcher will also work alongside the Victorian ASELCC clinical/educational team, other researchers at OTARC, the other Australian ASELCCs, and also with staff at other Melbourne-based early intervention centres for young children with autism.

Specific duties may include:

- Securing appropriate approvals (e.g., University Human Ethics Committee) for projects and reporting on these as required
- Coordinating and conducting research assessments with children and their caregivers, at the Victorian ASELCC and other Melbourne-based centres
- Managing large databases and conducting analysis to address key research questions
- Disseminating study findings including presenting at meetings and conferences, and preparing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and reports to funders

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School of Psychology & Public Health
College of Science, Health and Engineering

- Communicating with staff at other centres to ensure protocol adherence for cross-site studies
- Supervising the work of more junior research assistants and co-supervising research students

Essential Criteria

The individual appointed to this position will be able to demonstrate evidence of the following:

- A relevant undergraduate degree (e.g., psychology, speech pathology) and subsequent research-based post-graduate degree (or near completion; PhD or Professional Doctorate).
- A record of publications, conference papers and other research outputs as appropriate to career stage.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a research team and with educators/clinical professionals from multidisciplinary backgrounds.
- Knowledge of autism in childhood and typical early child development.
- High level oral and written communication skills.
- Strong work ethic including excellent attention to detail, and professional and ethical conduct.
- Proficiency with basic (e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel) and specific research (e.g., SPSS) software.

Applicants must also hold a valid drivers' licence, and obtain a Police Check and Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment.

Desirable Attributes

- Experience conducting standardised assessments with children with autism (e.g., Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule; Mullen Scales of Early Learning).
- Experience conducting semi-structured interviews with parents/caregivers of children with autism and providing verbal feedback on child assessment results.
- Knowledge about early intervention approaches for children with autism spectrum disorders.
- Knowledge of research methods for evaluating interventions and individual child outcomes.

Enquiries about the position can be directed to:

Dr Kristelle Hudry Senior Research Fellow, Victorian ASELCC
Ph: 9479 2122 E: k.hudry@latrobe.edu.au

For further information about the centres:

Victorian ASELCC: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/child/services/aselcc>
OTARC: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/otarc/>

To Apply

Applicants should email their CV, a cover letter (addressing the selection criteria, and indicating availability from 2016 and referee contact details) to Dr Kristelle Hudry: k.hudry@latrobe.edu.au

Applications received by **5pm Friday 2nd September 2016** will be considered in the first instance (though applications will be accepted until the position is filled). Interviews are likely to be scheduled during the week commencing 12th September, 2016.