

## **PhD Scholarship Opportunity in Return To Work**

### **Monash Centre for Occupational & Environmental Health**

#### **School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine**

#### **Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne**

A three year PhD scholarship is available at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University based in the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH).

Researchers at MonCOEH were recently awarded a three-year Linkage Project Grant from the Australian Research Council to better understand return to work (RTW) after work-injury in a changing Australian Labour Market. The objective of this research project is to identify the relationship between occupational, workplace, health care provider and individual level factors on disability, recovery expectations, self-efficacy to RTW, and RTW and work productivity over a 12 month period among workers compensation claimants in Victoria. In particular we want to identify differences in the RTW process for older versus younger workers and for claimants with mental versus musculoskeletal injuries. We will do this by collecting detailed information on different aspects of the RTW process from a sample of approximately 900 workers' compensation claimants, at three time points over a 12-month period.

We are now inviting applications from people interested in undertaking a PhD as part of this research project. The PhD opportunity will provide the opportunity for the successful candidate to develop a focused research agenda within this broader program of research. This is a unique opportunity for someone with interests in ageing and return-to-work, or mental health conditions and return-to-work, to be involved in primary data collection, analyses, and the discussion and dissemination of research results with various non-academic groups, including WorkSafe Victoria, Safe Work Australia, Beyond Blue, the Human Rights Commission and the Australian Industry Group. The successful candidate will also be supported to present research findings at relevant academic and non-academic conferences and to undertake additional research training relevant to their PhD objectives.

The successful candidate will have a clear research focus related to the research program, and a background in occupational health, public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, medical, or other health or science. A strong academic record is expected with preferably a second degree, or minimum high 2<sup>nd</sup> class honours (H2A) bachelor degree in a relevant discipline. Some research experience is essential. Australian & New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents only may apply.

Applicants should submit i) a maximum 2 page summary of their previous relevant experience or background, and a description of the area of RTW that is of particular interest to them; ii) CV; and iii) Academic transcripts.

Applications should be submitted to [emily.mulholland@monash.edu](mailto:emily.mulholland@monash.edu) by 5pm 15/11/13

For further information regarding the project, applicants are invited to contact Dr Peter Smith by email [peter.smith@monash.edu](mailto:peter.smith@monash.edu) or phone (03) 9903 0283.

Further information about doctoral study in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine can be found at the "DEPM Doctoral Information Handbook" link at:  
<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/doctorsal/phd.html>