

LIVED EXPERIENCE RESEARCHER (PRIME)

AUGUST 2026

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POSITION SUMMARY

Location:	Parkville		
Function area:	Research		
Classification/ Salary:	\$73,000 - \$78,000 pro rata + 12% super + access to \$15,900 NFP salary packaging		
Job level:	2		
Reports to:	PRIME Chief Investigators, PRIME Project Manager		
Employment type:	Part-time (0.2 FTE)		
Employment length:	6-month contract, with possibility of extension		
Direct reports	-	Indirect reports	-

POSITION PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Lived Experience Researcher will work on the Platform for Research and Interventions in youth Mental health and the Environment (PRIME) Project. This project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). PRIME brings together researchers and organisations that work with young people to support programs protecting the mental health of young Australians as they face climate change. This project speeds up the evaluation of specific climate resilient programs, bypassing the usual slow pace of traditional research.

The Lived Experience Researcher will co-facilitate group sessions with co-designers and program participants, composed of young people with lived experience from diverse backgrounds (e.g., diverse cultural/linguistic backgrounds, geographical locations, gender identities) and experiences of climate change related extreme weather events (e.g., bushfires, smoke haze, heatwaves, cyclones/storms, or flooding) or other impacts (e.g., coastal erosion).

The Lived Experience Researcher may also support PRIME's current Peer Researcher in facilitating the Youth Advisory Group, which is part of a larger Project Advisory Network that collaborates closely with the research team to impact decision-making directly. This network will play a critical role in a range of key activities including supporting study governance, facilitating study design, supporting dissemination of study findings, and ensuring priorities are implemented.

Lived Experience Researchers are committed, passionate young people who have personal and lived/living experience with coping/dealing with emotional impacts of climate change and/or climate change related natural disasters. As the Lived Experience Researcher, you will intentionally use this lived experience lens to work collaboratively with the research team and help ensure the deliverables

REVOLUTION IN MIND

are designed in the best way to meet the needs of young people. Central to this role is holding space for young people and the lived experience community to become more involved in the research processes.

This role contributes directly to the long-term transformation of youth mental health responses to climate change.

About Y-CARE and EcoConnections Feasibility Studies

As the Lived Experience Researcher you will be a co-facilitator for two novel co-designed programs which are being trialed by the PRIME team.

Y-CARE is a newly developed 10-step youth-led peer support program to help young people navigate difficult emotions related to climate change. It takes a strengths-based and non-pathologizing approach that focuses on building coping skills, fostering connection with peers, and supporting young people to engage in meaningful climate action in ways that align with their interests and values. The goal of this work is to develop evidence for a strengths-based approach to managing climate anxiety in youth by harnessing its adaptive qualities and building resilience to its harmful effects. This pilot study will examine whether the Y-CARE program is feasible and acceptable when delivered to youth participants with climate anxiety aged 16-25, peer support workers, and broader service provider stakeholders at headspace centres in Australia.

The **EcoConnections Feasibility Trial** is a joint initiative between the University of Melbourne and Museums Victoria. This study aims to pilot a codesigned green social prescribing (GSP) model of care with young people, which will create opportunities for engagement in social, nature-based activities that support socioemotional wellbeing. Green social prescribing is an emerging approach that connects individuals to nature-based activities to support mental health and wellbeing. This study engages young people aged 18–25 in trialling a GSP program. Findings will contribute to refining and evaluating the program

POSITION FOCUS

	Key responsibility area	Percentage
1	Lived experience leadership	60%
2	Research	40%

POSITION KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

1. Lived experience leadership

- Assist the recruitment of young people into Y-CARE and EcoConnections.
- Co-facilitate the Y-CARE peer support and EcoConnections green social prescribing program.
- Support young people to ensure meaningful and supported participation.
- Advocate for youth, lived/living experience perspectives within PRIME.
- Assist with related youth participation and engagement activities as required.
- Support other peer/lived researchers to undertake research tasks and work within the research environment.

2. Research

- Review and prepare written materials using a lived experience lens.
- Contribute to research documents (e.g., ethics applications, study protocols).
- Conduct research tasks as required (e.g., participant recruitment, data collection and analysis).

- Work collaboratively with study investigators, other peer researchers, and related colleagues.
- Lead or co-produce research dissemination outputs as required (e.g., conference abstracts, journal articles, creative outputs).
- Assist with the establishment of a co-design team, develop relationships with co-design teammembers, and facilitate co-design work.
- Assist with related research projects within the Youth Involvement in Research team as required.

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

Desirable but not essential	• Any qualification relating to health services research, youth mental health, or peer work.
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EXPERIENCE / SKILLS

Experience / skills	• Aged between 18 to 30 years old upon the start of contract. • Personal lived experience coping/dealing with emotional impacts of climate change and/or climate disasters. • Good computer skills including knowledge of Microsoft Word and Outlook as well as familiarity with online social networking platforms. • Capacity to problem solve effectively, engage with, and work creatively in partnership with young people. • Experience or willingness to undertake research related tasks (e.g., qualitative data collection (interviews)).
Personal attributes	• Passion, energy, and determination to make a difference to the health and mental health outcomes for young people. • Willingness and ability to communicate an attitude of hope and optimism to young people. • Ability to work effectively independently and in a team. • Excellent time management skills. • Interest in health services research, co-design and participatory research methodologies, mental health advocacy, or youth advocacy. • Interest in lived experience collaboration in research.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal	• PRIME Advisory Network • Orygen • University of Melbourne
External	• Museums Victoria • University of Sydney • Mission Australia • Psychology for a Safe Climate • The Feds Australia • Youth Affairs Council Victoria

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Unrestricted right to live and work in Australia.
- A current National Police Check will be required.
- Any offer of employment is conditional upon receipt and maintenance of a satisfactory Working with Children Check.

- Travel to Orygen workspaces in Parkville, Melbourne will be required (for example, to attend services, meetings or workshops). Travel to Melbourne Museum and The University of Melbourne Burnley Campus is also required.
- Travel to headspace centres (trial sites) including but not limited to Lilydale and Craigieburn is required.
- A current Victorian driver's licence (required).
- In line with government guidelines, this position may need to be based at home during certain periods. As such a reliable internet connection will be required.
- Occasional out of hours, evening and/or weekend work may be required.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees are required to comply with all workplace health, safety and wellbeing policies and procedures of Orygen and the University of Melbourne.

In addition, employees are expected to:

- Promote and demonstrate Orygen and the University of Melbourne's high standards in relation to health, safety and wellbeing, championing a culture of safety in the workplace.
- Take responsibility for their own safety, health and wellbeing and for their colleagues and others they work alongside, as far as they are able.
- Follow policies, training and guidelines related to Workplace health, safety and wellbeing, including reporting of unsafe work practices, incidents, hazards and near miss events.
- Be committed to promoting and protecting the safety and well-being of all children and young people and embedding safeguarding practices into all our programs and services.
- You may encounter sensitive information related to mental health as part of your work. Being aware of this and how it could affect you and planning accordingly is essential.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Confirming this position description has been read and understood by:

Name	[Insert name]
Signature	[Insert signature]
Date	[Insert date]