
PEER RESEARCHER (PRIME)

JUNE 2025

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POSITION SUMMARY

Location:	Parkville/hybrid (some on-site work required)		
Functional area:	Research		
Classification/ Salary:	\$70,000 - \$75,000 pro rata + 12% super (1 st July) + access to \$15,900 NFP salary packaging		
Job level:	2		
Reports to:	PRIME Chief Investigators, PRIME Project Manager		
Employment type:	Part time (0.2FTE)		
Employment length:	24-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 facilitate the establishment and engagement activities of the Youth Advisory Group, 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 Youth Advisory Group 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

REVOLUTION IN MIND

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 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 Research

Orygen research delivers cutting-edge research, policy development, innovative clinical services, and evidence-based training and education for the mental health workforce to ensure that there is continuous improvement in the treatments and care provided to young people experiencing mental ill-health.

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 the Youth Advisory Group.
- 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 team members and facilitate co-design work.
- Assist with related research projects within the Youth Involvement in Research team as required.

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any qualification relating to health services research, youth mental health, or peer work.
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EXPERIENCE / SKILLS

Experience / skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Demonstrated commitment to equity, diversity and cultural safety in peer work.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRIME Advisory Network • Orygen • University of Melbourne
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums Victoria • University of Sydney • Mission Australia • Psychology for a Safe Climate • The Feds Australia • Youth Affairs Council Victoria

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Occasional travel to Orygen workspaces in Parkville, Melbourne may be required (for example, to attend services, meetings or workshops). • A current Victorian driver's licence (desirable) • 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.
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SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING RESPONSIBILITIES

<p>Employees are required to comply with all workplace health, safety and wellbeing policies and procedures of Orygen.</p> <p>In addition, employees are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and demonstrate Orygen'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.
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- 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]