



**ARC LINKAGE GRANT – POSITION VACANT
APAI RESEARCH STUDENT
“The E4Kids study – Effective Early Educational Experiences”**

BACKGROUND:

A research team led by Professor Collette Tayler (Chair of Early Childhood Education, the University of Melbourne) and Professor Karen Thorpe (School of Psychology and Counselling, Queensland University of Technology) has recently been awarded an ARC Linkage Grant for a project entitled “Assessing the Effectiveness of early childhood education and care programs in Australian Communities – the E4Kids study” (LP0990200). This five year project is hosted within the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. There is one APAI PhD research position commencing in mid 2010 located at the University of Melbourne.

The E4Kids study is a landmark national research study examining the effects of children’s early education and care experiences on their development, health and social inclusion outcomes. The study will track children from age 3 through to age 8 when data linkage to National Literacy and Numeracy testing (NAPLAN) will be made. The study is funded by the Australian Research Council, Queensland and Victorian State Governments and is being undertaken jointly at QUT and the University of Melbourne. The scholarships provide an opportunity to work within a large research team and will include linked supervisions with staff and students engaged in the study at the University of Melbourne.

Main topics of the proposed research which will be the focus of this APAI’s work include:

- The pedagogical content (emotional, organisational, instructional) of early childhood education and care settings;
- The implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework, (The Early Years Framework for Australia and/or the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework)
- The outcomes of children in different types of early childhood programs

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants for this position must:

Essential

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen;
- hold a relevant degree in education or have completed a four year undergraduate degree or equivalent, preferably with H1 or high H2A results or equivalent;
- not have completed a PhD or its equivalent;
- not be receiving similar funding from a Commonwealth Government Program;
- not have previously held an APA or APA(I) unless it was terminated within the first six months of the award

Desirable

- have some knowledge of early childhood education, although this is advantageous but not essential.
- Capacity and experience using statistical packages (e.g. SPSS)

BENEFITS

- The award will be provided for three years
- An annual, tax-free stipend of AUD \$26,140 (per annum). This award is to be used for living expenses. This scholarship is paid fortnightly for the period of 3 years.
- The APAI recipient will be exempted from HECS charges.
- Other allowances including relocation expenses and thesis allowance will be payable. The student will also receive some financial support for research travels and conference presentation.

Proposed supervisors include Professor Collette Tayler from the University of Melbourne. Industry partners with expertise in early childhood education and policy and will be available for support and collaboration

REQUIREMENTS:

The successful applicant must:

- commence full-time study in a University of Melbourne PhD research program in Semester 1 2010.
- write a thesis in an area relating to the theme of curriculum and pedagogy in the early years

HOW TO INQUIRE AND APPLY:

Applications, including CV and details of 2 referees should be submitted via email to E4-Kids@unimelb.edu.au by 28th March 2010 11:55pm Aus. Eastern Standard Time.

Web Address: <http://cms.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/pgrad/local/available/apai>