

## Expression of Interest

### VCCC Alliance Research and Education Lead – Rural and Regional Health (for re-appointment or appointment)

*Appointment to 30 June 2028*

#### About the Position


The Research and Education Lead - Rural and Regional Health will work closely with the VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program and Equity Governance Group to improve cancer care in the regions. They will be an integral member of the VCCC Alliance Collaborative Leadership, a multidisciplinary and cross functional program incorporating 10 tumour stream and four cross cutting theme Research and Education (R&E) Leads, whose purpose is to facilitate the more rapid translation of research derived evidence into clinical care. They will be accountable for identifying and driving ongoing development and implementation of a stream of work that contributes to addressing inequities in cancer outcomes experienced by Rural and Regional Victorians through the VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program, including improving access to clinical trials and further developing regional partnerships to determine and support collaborative projects to ensure equitable access to innovative cancer care.

The Research and Education Lead - Rural and Regional Health will provide leadership and support to build capability and capacity for addressing inequities experienced by Rural and Regional people across the VCCC Alliance and our collaborators, in alignment with the VCCC Alliance 2024-2029 Strategy, the Victorian Cancer Plan and the Australian Cancer Plan. The role will also assist in the coordination and collaboration of activities that contribute to, build upon and collaborate with others to address inequities in cancer outcomes for Rural and Regional communities in Victoria.

This role requires a pro-active and highly motivated individual with significant experience in developing and implementing complex equity-related initiatives within the health sector, preferably in an oncology setting, and who can establish strong collaborative relationships with staff across the VCCC Alliance, within member organisations, and with external stakeholders.

#### Key Responsibilities

1. The Research and Education Lead - Rural and Regional Health will provide strategic leadership across the VCCC Alliance in the development and implementation of key initiatives to contribute to addressing inequities in cancer outcomes for Rural and Regional communities. This will include:
  - o Build internal and external networks and partnerships to develop and support initiatives that address the needs of Rural and Regional communities related to improving cancer outcomes
  - o provide strategic leadership for research and education/training across relevant tumour streams and other strategic program areas
  - o facilitate the VCCC Alliance members working together more effectively to address inequities in cancer outcomes.
2. Provide expert advice on existing health inequities and Rural and Regional needs, to inform programming and contribute to the VCCC Alliance's strategic planning processes.

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3. Continue to assess the Rural and Regional Health landscape across the VCCC Alliance to gain an understanding of where the VCCC Alliance can add value with consideration for the following areas:
    - a. linkage and sharing of health, clinical and patient experience data as an enabler for research;
    - b. personalised cancer care;
    - c. systems and processes that increase access to clinical trials;
    - d. innovations to improve cancer outcomes in regional Victoria;
    - e. research and research-enabling infrastructure;
    - f. education, training (including research training) and professional development;
    - g. evidence for best practice across the continuum of care.
  4. Act as an ambassador for the VCCC Alliance by:
    - a. increasing awareness of the role of the VCCC Alliance;
    - b. identifying key opportunities for VCCC Alliance engagement;
    - c. speaking publicly about VCCC Alliance programs in the media, scientific and clinical communities;
    - d. contributing content to the VCCC Alliance newsletter and annual report as appropriate;
    - e. other communication activities as and when appropriate.
  5. From time to time, the VCCC Alliance may also call on the Lead's expertise to have input into other related activities. Such input will be discussed and agreed in association with the VCCC Alliance Senior Manager, Health Equity and CEO.
  6. With support from the VCCC Alliance program staff, participate in the development of the evaluation of the collaborative model of leadership to inform future planning, with the aim of continuing to drive impactful synergistic initiatives toward improved patient outcomes.
  7. With support from VCCC Alliance program staff, initiate a multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Council as a collaborative platform for rural and regionally based diverse healthcare professionals. The Council would serve to share insights, develop strategy, foster leadership and implement initiatives that address the multifaceted challenges of rural / regional cancer care.

### **Key Selection Criteria:**

#### **Skills and Experience**

- Significant experience in addressing inequities in health outcomes experienced by Rural and Regional communities
- Informed understanding of and commitment to the vision of VCCC Alliance
- Significant research profile relative to opportunity in the health disparities experienced by Rural and Regional communities
- Proven experience in contributing to a collaborative enterprise and enabling collective impact
- Experience in developing and/or delivering post-graduate education/training for health and/or research professionals
- Demonstrated success in building research capability in a complex environment
- Demonstrated involvement in, and support for, evidence-based processes that improve patient outcomes
- Significant experience effectively managing the requirements of a wide range of stakeholders, including organisations working with or representing the interests of Rural and Regional communities.



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## Qualifications

- A relevant clinical qualification
- A University affiliation
- PhD or equivalent research experience

## Term and Time Commitment

Availability to commit to responsibilities of the role until 30 June 2028.

## Funding Arrangement

The funding agreement offered for this appointment will provide funds to be held by the R&E Lead's substantive (current) employer for the purposes of backfilling for their position, including any support, for the period.

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## About the VCCC Alliance

### Vision

To save lives through the integration of cancer research, education and patient care. Through innovation and collaboration, the VCCC Alliance will drive the next generation of improvements in prevention, detection, treatment and survivorship for all.

### Operating Environment

The [VCCC Alliance](#) is a powerful partnership of leading research, academic and clinical institutions working together to accelerate and amplify leading-edge cancer research, knowledge and expertise to benefit the Victorian community, supported by the Victorian Government.

The VCCC Alliance is founded on principles of collective impact which starts by defining a shared problem and working together with members, consumers and partners to codesign a shared vision to solve it. Strategic leadership is drawn from across the members and through innovative programs we work to solve problems; advance and share knowledge; educate and develop ways to accelerate the translation of research to practice.

Through innovation and collaboration, our alliance is leading integrated, research-driven, consumer-informed, cancer research, education and patient care.


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## Our Team

We are a tight-knit team of staff who form the backbone of the VCCC Alliance, working to facilitate the power of collective impact across the alliance and beyond. We are committed to working within the spirit of our organisational **Values: Patient-centred, For All, Bold, United, Respectful.**

Our VCCC Alliance team fosters and coordinates the expertise of the alliance, consumers and partners to encourage and enable collective effort to achieve more than any single entity or individual can achieve on their own.

At the VCCC Alliance, our team, along with multi-site, multi-disciplinary strategic leaders and consumers, are the backbone. We are dedicated to facilitating expertise across the cancer sector in the ambitious task of



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implementing sustainable systemic change to continuously improve equitable care and outcomes for cancer patients.

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### **Equity and Inclusion**

The VCCC Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation.

The VCCC Alliance makes decisions on employment, engagement, promotion and reward on the basis of merit. We are committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, contractors, appointees, secondees, consumers, volunteers and partners with a safe, respectful and collegiate environment. This commitment is set out in more detail in the VCCC Alliance Equal Opportunity Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy and our Professional Conduct Policy.

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### **Consumer Engagement**

The VCCC Alliance has a strong commitment to integrating the expertise of a lived experience across all activities of the organisation. Cancer consumers are involved in planning our strategy, governance, program design and implementation and are supported by all staff to ensure *patient-centred* is our core value. We are dedicated to demonstrating quality consumer engagement practices that foster an environment of learning, respectful and productive working relationships.

### **Further Information**

For further information about VCCC Alliance, please go to our website: [www.vcccallyiance.org.au](http://www.vcccallyiance.org.au)

For confidential enquiries regarding applying for this role, please contact VCCC Alliance Head of Research, Dr Mark Buzza +61 407 553 501 and/or [mark.buzza@vcccallyiance.org.au](mailto:mark.buzza@vcccallyiance.org.au)

### **To Express Your Interest**

In the interests of finding a candidate with the most relevant expertise and experience, this position will be advertised both within and outside the VCCC Alliance member network. A secondment opportunity will be considered for candidates from VCCC Alliance members.

To express your interest in this role, please send your CV and covering letter outlining the key reasons for your interest in the role, specifically addressing the key selection criteria in this EOI document to Dr Mark Buzza [mark.buzza@vcccallyiance.org.au](mailto:mark.buzza@vcccallyiance.org.au), no later than Monday 5 August 2024.