



## PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Project Title	Review of ACT residential aged care facility influenza/acute respiratory infection outbreaks
Supervisor name	Rebecca Hundy
CHS/ACTHD position	Senior Director, Public Health Epidemiology and Reporting
Address	2-6 Bowes Street, Phillip
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## Lead discipline (please select one)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical          | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Policy           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |  |

## Does this project involve research led by, or relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders?

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
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## Outline of the project (250 words max)

While outbreaks of respiratory illness have always occurred in residential aged care facilities (RACF), the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape for infection prevention and control in these settings. In this project you will describe and assess the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the incidence, burden and severity of RACF non-COVID respiratory outbreaks in the ACT.

Outbreaks of respiratory illness are notifiable to ACT Health and we hold more than 10 years of data on the number of outbreaks notified, their duration, the pathogen implicated, the number of people affected, and outcomes for residents (hospitalisation or death). You will collate, clean and analyse this dataset to determine if there has been a change in the frequency, duration, burden or severity of outbreaks attributable to other pathogens such as influenza and RSV. Working with your supervisors, you will draw implications from the findings, and make recommendations for public health action.

## Proposed research methods

Retrospective data analysis and interpretation.

## Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student

Epidemiology, public health

#### Benefits to the student and to the department

The student will gain experience working in a dynamic public health unit and skills in using and analysing public health data.

The unit will gain data into the effects of pandemic responses on the epidemiology of all RACF respiratory outbreaks, which will inform policy and procedures.

#### How does this project align with any or all of the three strategic objectives of *Better Together: A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system (100w max)*

[Better together - A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system 2022–2030](#)

This project aligns with Objective 1 The ACT Health system becomes learning health system, specifically strategic actions 6 Performance and 8 Capacity-building gaps and barriers.

#### ACTHD/CHS Department where the student will be based

Public Health Epidemiology and Reporting

#### Will the student be in a patient facing role at any time during the project?

No

#### Will the student require access to CHS and/or ACTHD network / DHR / applications / database? If yes, please identify

Yes – ACTHD network

#### Will the student require CHS / ACT Health building access? If yes, please identify

Yes – Bowes Street

#### Supervisor availability across key dates

Friday 10 Nov – Preplacement presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-12pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes
Placement period 10 Nov – 9 Feb Please indicate availability across this time. <i>E.g. leave over Christmas/New Year</i>	<i>Available except for shutdown period.</i>
At least two face-to-face sessions with the student each week during their 6-week placement.	Yes
Friday 9 Feb – Final presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-1pm – supervisors are not</i>	Yes

<i>required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	
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X I have read and I agree to the [ACT Health privacy policy](#) which includes statements on how the ACT Health Directorate acts lawfully to collect and use data to report on activities and to plan for future events and initiatives; including that we may use your details to contact you if required for program delivery and/or evaluation and to inform you of future similar opportunities.

Please submit form to [health.research@act.gov.au](mailto:health.research@act.gov.au)