**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Supporting protective factors for children’s communication development in Queensland** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | For the Winter program, students will be engaged **for 4 weeks only**.  Hours of engagement – 30 hours per week (negotiable) within the official program dates (30 June – 25 July 2025).  Project is able to completed under remote working arrangements if required, however, some on-site attendance is preferred. |
| **Description:** | There is growing recognition of the need to address social determinants of health across multiple levels to promote optimal child development outcomes. The Australian Government’s *Early Years Strategy 2024–2034* (Commonwealth of Australia: Department of Social Services, 2024) underscores that “children grow and develop in the context of their families, kin, communities, and society.” To improve outcomes for young children, action is required across all these spheres. This project will undertake a literature review to understand the role of social determinants and protective factors in supporting early communication development for Australian children. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The student will gain skills in systematic database searching, research design, and research presentation (i.e., development of conference presentation slides). The successful applicant will be provided with access to research networks and connections, including UQ research groups and Queensland speech pathologists involved in the Promotion and Preventative Action in Speech Pathology (PPASP) Network. Depending on interest, scholars may have the opportunity to contribute to a publication. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from UQ speech pathology students from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences who have completed 2 years of study (i.e., 3rd or 4th Year students). |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Katelyn Melvin |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Katelyn Melvin ([k.melvin@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.melvin@uq.edu.au)) for further information about the project. |