**UQ Winter Research Project**

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| **Project title:** | Beyond Words: exploring decision-making in law and practice for people using aged care services who have substitute decision-makers. |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | Duration: 4 weeks  Hours of engagement: 20-30 hours per week  Delivery mode: Hybrid/remote arrangement \*Students will be able to complete most of their work remotely. |
| **Description:** | This Winter Research Project will contribute to Beyond Words. Beyond Words explores decision-making and capacity in *law* and in *practice* for people using aged care in Australia who have substitute decision-makers appointed. People who are considered to be unable to make legally recognised decisions – to lack legal ‘capacity’ - are among the most invisible and disadvantaged groups within the aged care population. This is particularly the case when people have a substitute decision-maker, and even more so where a publicly appointed decision-maker is assigned (such as a Public Guardian). It is also not clear how the new Aged Care Act and its focus on supported decision-making will interact with existing State-based (substituted) decision-making regimes. This project will assist with development of a national Roundtable with key stakeholders (including people with lived and living experience) about these issues. The Roundtable aims to build consensus about key issues and for people with substituted decision-makers under the new Aged Care Act using a World café method. The Winter Research student will assist with review of regulation and/or literature on decision-making, aged care, and similar issues; preparing material and assisting with developing the Roundtable; and other assistance such as analysis of qualitative interview data related to decision-making. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Students will gain skills in at least one or more of the following areas: reviewing literature, reviewing law and regulation, qualitative data analysis, preparation of research materials for data collection (Roundtable), academic writing. Based on the student’s interest and level of ability, they might also have the opportunity to contribute to research outputs including publications/oral presentations at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is in the area of sociology of law, and focused on communication support needs, so it is open to applicants in their 3rd or 4th year of a Bachelor of Laws, OR in their final year of a Social Science/Arts program with an interest in law, human rights, disability studies, or issues of aging. Students in their 3rd or 4th year of a Bachelor of Speech Pathology may also be interested. Students should have an interest in issues of law in practice. Strong analysis and writing skills are needed to contribute to the project. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Michelle King |
| **Further info:** | If you would like further information, please contact Dr Michelle King via email: [michelle.king@uq.edu.au](mailto:michelle.king@uq.edu.au) |