

ECU-UoP Joint PhD Scholarship

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title:

The link between physical injury and mental health conditions, and how this influences decision-making in a Defence context.

Project Summary:

Injury (especially musculoskeletal (MSKI)) is the largest medical burden in the military worldwide. Intrinsic connections between physical (especially MSKI) and mental health conditions negatively impact the operational readiness of military personnel. Defence needs new information before it can act to address this co-occurring burden of physical and mental health conditions. This research will a) develop a new conceptual model of the interconnected physical injury –mental health burden; b) explore the application of this to Defence contexts; and c) provide a Defence system map to directly inform critical decision points where/when this information is needed to improve health and capability trajectories.

Preferred Applicant Skillset:

A motivated PhD candidate with excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and an appreciation of their application in real-world settings. Candidates should have a passion for methodological rigour and a strong understanding of research integrity. They will have experience in qualitative or mixed-methods research and strong writing skills. They will have a background in at least one of the following areas: epidemiology, data science, public health, systems thinking, psychology, behavioural science, physiotherapy or exercise/sports science. Experience in a defence context, or in injury prevention or mental health, would be advantageous. Applicants must meet the requirements of a baseline security clearance.

Primary Contact:

Professor Caroline Finch AO
Tel: +61 466 438 067
Email: c.finch@ecu.edu.au