



Research • Consultation • Policy • Publications • Training • Evaluation

Information Sheet

Research Officer Vacancy

Purple Orange is the shopfront for the Julia Farr Association, a social profit (NFP), non-government organisation. Through research and dialogue with people living with disability, Purple Orange develops policy and practice in support of people living with disability getting a fair go at everything that life has to offer.

When we recruit we look for people who have a deeply felt value base about social justice and the rights of people living with disability, especially in respect of choices and inclusion. We value self-starters who are driven to achieve genuine measurable outcomes. If you are a team player with an inquisitive and analytical mindset we are keen to hear from you.

For this role we are looking for an experienced, intelligent person who can take on the responsibility for working as part of a small research team providing effective research and evaluation of a wide range of issues relevant to the lives of people. You will come from an environment where your duties have been broad and varied and you are comfortable multi-tasking and taking on new challenges.

As you will see in the attached Role Description, the role involves working with our team to coordinate sometimes complex and politically sensitive projects in a manner which gives appropriate regard to ethical standards and stakeholder engagement. You will have the opportunity to lead your own projects and develop research methodology that ensures our policy development is well informed.

This is a role for a person who pays careful attention to detail and who can analyse complex issues to develop persuasive argument and progressive recommendations. You will be able to make things happen and engage with stakeholders to consult and seek input.

If successful, we offer a generous salary with packaging options. We are located in modern, fully accessible offices at 104 Greenhill Road, Unley and offer flexible working conditions which might assist to meet individual's circumstances. The role will be appointed based on merit and people living with disability are encouraged to apply.

We have attached a Job and Person Specification and further general information about the Julia Farr Group is available via our website www.juliafarr.org.au. In preparing your application we strongly encourage you to address the essential and desirable criteria in the Person. Please also include a current résumé.

If you have specific questions please contact 8373 8333 for a confidential discussion.

Applicants are encouraged to apply by close of business 9 August 2010 and applications may be forwarded to:

Office Coordinator
Julia Farr Association
PO Box 701 Unley Business Centre SA 5061

We look forward to receiving your application.



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Julia Farr Association

Team Member

Role description & person specification

Title of Role:	RESEARCH OFFICER
Term of Appointment:	Permanent (Full time 38 hr per week) Hours of work are negotiable and reduced hours are possible

ABOUT THE ROLE

1. Summary of the role's aim

The Research Officer is responsible for:

- Effective research and evaluation of a wide range of issues relevant to the lives of people living with disability , including research/project design, information gathering, analysis of data, and the writing and production of submissions, reports, papers and other publications.
- Coordinating complex and politically sensitive projects in a manner which gives appropriate regard to ethical standards and stakeholder engagement.

2. Main Benefits (Outcomes)

[A summary of the measurable benefits that will be brought to the target community]

The success of this role will be reflected by an improvement in the life chances for people living with disability¹, through the generation of well-researched information that leads to:

- Increase understanding of known best practices in supporting people living with disability towards a good life
- Increase awareness of new helpful policy initiatives
- Influence favourable change in public policy and legislation

¹ Note that throughout this document we acknowledge and support the benefits that family members can also gain from this role

- Lead and influence community capacity to be inclusive
 - Initiate greater activity by, and awareness of, the voice of people living with disability
 - increased media/community awareness of, and access to, Purple Orange and Julia Farr Association as a credible and well-informed source of information and opinion on disability issues
 - favourable change in media reporting of issues relevant to people living with disability
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3. Main Deliverables (Outputs)

[A summary of what the role will quantitatively produce]

Contribute to the sound research practices of the Julia Farr Group through the:

- development and maintenance of research methodology that ensures that our policy development is well-informed and timely
 - completed research in relation to target issues,
 - production of competitive research-related funding applications
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4. Main work activities (Processes)

- conducting qualitative and quantitative research on a range of issues and services
 - collate, analyse and advise on research findings
 - extract analyse and report on demographic data
 - project management
 - prepare reports and presentation on key findings
 - preparation of research-related funding applications
 - other activities as directed by CEO
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5. Reporting/Working Relationships

This role reports to (role sponsor): CEO or delegate

This role provides formal support and guidance to the following other roles:

- students, trainees, interns, volunteers etc who may from time-to-time be involved with Julia Farr Association in matters of research, and related activities.

This role is responsible for maintaining good networks with stakeholders, including:

- People living with disability, and other people in their lives such as family, friends and other supporters
- Julia Farr Association Team Members
- Board members undertaking Board-mandated work in relevant areas
- Education sector
- Community leaders and NGOs relevant to the work
- Government staff relevant to the work
- Commercial sector staff relevant to the work

6. Special Conditions (Such as travel requirements, frequent overtime, etc).

The incumbent is required to:

- Hold a current licence for a motor vehicle and to travel within the metropolitan area and regional locations as required.

The role demands a commitment to:

- Support the integrity of the Julia Farr Association by maintaining a high standard of personal and professional conduct that supports our values, including:
 - People living with disability having personal authority in their lives
 - Inclusive communities
 - Capacity-building
 - The exercise of ambassadorship
 - The exercise of your best judgement in respect of safeguards for you, your fellow team members, people living with disability and their families, and other visitors to our organisation.
- Support and contribute to the achievement of the Julia Farr Association's goals as set out in strategy and business plan documents;
- Initiate, and participate in, activities in support of best practice, a learning organisation, and the generation of knowledge capital;
- Work outside of normal business hours where this is needed;
- Participate in performance planning and review, as frequently as may be required, but at least annually, and commit to ongoing personal and professional development;
- Be willing to change office location if directed as a result of service development and organisational change;

Acknowledged by Role Holder /...../.....

Role Sponsor..... /...../.....

ABOUT THE ROLE HOLDER

Essential Criteria

1. A relevant degree and experience working in a research environment.
2. Deeply felt value base in support of improving the life chances for people living with disability and their families, especially in respect of choices and inclusion
3. Demonstrated research experience in:
 - quantitative data analysis and
 - qualitative data analysis.
4. High level verbal and written communication skills
5. An inquisitive and analytical mindset
6. A self-starter driven to achieve genuine measurable outcomes
7. Ability to work under limited supervision and coordinate a project to successful completion.
8. Demonstrated ability to work in a multidisciplinary team, establish priorities and meet deadlines
9. Recent experience in designing and conducting research and evaluation in a social justice setting and completing an evaluation report based on this work.
10. Knowledge of current Disability Sector reforms initiatives and issues for people living with a disability.
11. Able to articulate an effective approach to knowledge management
12. Demonstrated ability to contribute to the maintenance of a harmonious, safe and healthy workplace, free of harassment, unlawful discrimination and bullying and where diversity is valued

Desirable criteria

1. Personal insight of what it means to live with disability
2. Successful grant applications and/or experience in writing reports.
3. Well developed networks within the Disability Sector.
4. Knowledge of legislation & policy settings and how they impact people living with disability