**2019-2020 Psychology UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | *Supervisor Competencies for Return to Work/Remain at Work (RTW/RAW) for Common Mental Health Disorders* |
| **Project duration:** | * 8 Weeks * 25 hours per week per week. |
| **Position/s available** | One |
| **Description:** | Mental illness costs Australian workplaces almost $11 billion (AUD) per year in absenteeism, presenteeism and workers’ compensation costs (beyondblue and PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2014) with around 7,200 Australian employees compensated for work-related mental illnesses every year (Safe Work Australia, 2018). Given the size of the problem, mental illness continues to be of significant area of focus for Australian businesses and governments alike (Safework NSW 2017, Safe Work Australia 2017). Despite this, workers, organisations, and line managers have struggled with return and remain at work processes (RTW and RAW) in the context of mental illness (see for example, Ladegaard, Skakon, Elrond & Netterstrom, 2016).  Working with a multidisciplinary team this research aims to address these challenges. Underpinned by theory related to leadership and empirical studies on line manager competencies, this project aims assess the reliability and validity of a measure of supervisor competencies for RTW/RAW, and/or test an online simulation-based training intervention to improve supervisor competencies for RTW/RAW after a common mental health disorder. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars may gain skills in data collection and analysis as well as have an opportunity to contribute to publications associated with this research. Students will be asked to produce a written report at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from 3-4 year students with a background in psychology at UQ. An interest in organisational psychology and some training in statistics is preferred. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Kirsten Way |
| **Further info:** | Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspects of the project. Phone: 3346 9504. |
| **Collaborating with external organisation?** |  |