

Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours Supervisors For 2026

You might like to mention one or more of the following areas in your brief description of research:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
Aged Care and Ageing
Audiology
Behaviour
Cancer Survivorship
Cardiovascular Health
Clinical Rehabilitation
Digital Health
Disability
Early Childhood and Childhood
Epidemiology
Exercise Science
Health Economics
Health Sciences
Mental Health
Midwifery
Nursing
Nutrition
Optometry
Palliative Care
Paramedicine
Physiotherapy
Psychosocial well-being

| Name & Link to Online Profile | Email Address | Brief Description of Research (Max. 80 Words) |
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| Dr Anne Mette Adams | mette.adams@flinders.edu.au | My research focuses on patient and family-centred care in the ICU and clinician wellbeing. I have a particular interest in knowledge translation and the nonpharmacological management of patient agitation. I use a variety of research methodologies, including systematic reviews, Delphi, qualitative, and mixed-methods designs. I have multiple projects that are suitable for honours students including a |

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| | | systematic review on de-escalation in the ICU or implementation of non-pharmacological interventions, interviews or surveys of nurses to explore fundamentals of care and management of patient agitation in the ICU. |
| Jessie Anderson | Jessie.Anderson@flinders.edu.au | Jessie Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in Nursing, Registered Nurse, researcher and educator with a background in Emergency Nursing. Currently based in Adelaide, Jessie previously worked with the Rural Inter-Professional Placement Learning team in Alice Springs and remains committed to identifying nursing workforce challenges including the transition from university to practice and specifically in regional and remote Australia. |
| Dr Matthew Ankers | matthew.ankers@flinders.edu.au | I have a research focus on vulnerable/disadvantaged children and their families, both in Australia and internationally, on subjects including the impacts of poverty, homelessness, pandemics, and non-government organisations interventions aimed at addressing these issues. I have also investigated child development and health, and interventions that assist with the re-integrating of children back into mainstream services. |
| Professor Nicola Anstice | nicola.anstice@flinders.edu.au | My research investigates ways to improve vision and academic outcomes in children. This involves early interventions to provide appropriate vision aids and other supports necessary to ensure that children succeed at school. |
| Dr Nicky Baker | nicky.baker@ariaa.org.au | This project falls within an interdisciplinary research space, including gerontology (focusing on the psychological, social, and economic aspects of aging, addressing challenges for older populations), social work (focusing on individual and community wellbeing, social systems and services), and public health (improving the health of populations through collaboration, education, and policy). |
| Associate Professor Claire Baldwin | claire.baldwin@flinders.edu.au | Physical activity in older adults - helping the most at risk patients in hospital get moving. Acute care. Clinical education. |
| Associate Professor Michelle Bellon | Michelle.Bellon@flinders.edu.au | Access to health care for people with intellectual disability |

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| Dr Ella Bracci | Ella.bracci@flinders.edu.au | Ella is a mixed methods researcher with an interest in implementation science and knowledge translation. She has led several process evaluations of trials in the aged care and hospital settings and currently works on projects related to stroke rehabilitation and improving quality of life after stroke. Her PhD had a focus on psychosocial wellbeing and the Mediterranean Diet in older adults living in retirement villages. |
| Dr Neil Bretana | Neil.bretana@flinders.edu.au | Neil is a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University whose work bridges digital health, data science, and health sciences education. His research focuses on developing and evaluating emerging digital health technologies to improve public health. He has a multi-disciplinary background and a wealth of experience in industry and start-ups. |
| Kristy Burfield | kristy.burfield@flinders.edu.au | Hospitalized patients benefit from shared meals, which enhance protein intake and boost morale, leading to better rehabilitation outcomes. COVID-19 restrictions halted group dining, and many rehabilitation settings have yet to resume this practice. This study aims to identify barriers and enablers to re-establish communal meals in these environments. |
| Dr Juliana Christina | juliana.christina@flinders.edu.au | My background is in cancer nursing, and my research focuses on improving the quality of life of people affected by cancer. My work spans cancer survivorship programs, supportive care and prehabilitation, integrative oncology, and digital health innovations to enhance cancer care. I have experience conducting qualitative, mixed-methods, and randomised controlled trial (RCT) research, and I also have research expertise in aged care and palliative care settings. |

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| Dr Victoria Cornell | Victoria.cornell@flinders.edu.au | <p>I am a PhD qualified social gerontologist, undertaking research on areas including housing (especially alternative models of housing, and housing for vulnerable older people), in-home care provision for older people, the aged care workforce, community wellbeing for older people, and end of life care. My research seeks to optimise outcomes for older people in the context of choice, independence, housing security, participation in community life and wellbeing.</p> <p>I am a member of the Australian Association of Gerontology and a committee member - South Australian branch of Australian Association of Gerontology.</p> <p>In 2022, I undertook the AV Jennings Churchill Fellowship to investigate alternative, affordable models of housing that could help older Australians to age-in-place, and I am on the Churchill Fellows Association SA committee.</p> |
| Dr Anita De Bellis | anita.debellis@flinders.edu.au | <p>I am a qualitative researcher and my areas of interest include dementia care, aged care, end of life care, and any general nursing topic.</p> |
| Dr Janine Margarita Dizon | janinemargarita.dizon@flinders.edu.au | <p>My research focuses on evidence-based practice in medicine and allied health. My work emphasises improving healthcare through evidence synthesis with a goal to implement effective, research-based healthcare practices across various settings.</p> |
| Dr Eloise Doherty | eloise.doherty@flinders.edu.au | <p>My research explores musical engagement and auditory processing in individuals with hearing loss, applying novel research methodologies to explore both outcomes and experience. My research expertise is in all aspects of audiology, music education/music psychology, qualitative research methods and post-qualitative research methods.</p> |
| Dr Kacie Dickinson | Kacie.dickinson@flinders.edu.au | <p>My program of research investigates how foods, meals and diets shape cardiometabolic health and chronic disease risk, and translation of this evidence into practice. Current research</p> |

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| | | includes plant-based and sustainable eating patterns and disease risk. I am also leading research in the areas of interprofessional education and practice and students' perspectives of overseas placements. |
| Associate Professor Carolyn Ee | carolyn.ee@flinders.edu.au | Research projects exploring aspects of cancer survivorship (particularly in primary care) including but not limited to cancer survivorship in general practice, integrative oncology, metabolic impacts of cancer, cancer survivorship in particular groups such as women (eg menopause after cancer), Adolescents/Young Adults, culturally and linguistically diverse people, and older people. |
| Dr Katie Ekberg | katie.ekberg@flinders.edu.au | Psychosocial aspects of health and healthcare, Healthcare communication, person-centred care, family-centred care, audiology, palliative care, psychosocial well-being, health psychology, behaviour change |
| Associate Professor Stuart Ekberg | stuart.ekberg@flinders.edu.au | My health sciences research uses direct observation to develop insights about communication in healthcare that can be used to inform policy and practice. Using conversation analysis methods, recent projects have examined communication in (adult and paediatric) palliative care, cancer survivorship, mental health, and healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I usually help students nest their studies in larger nationally funded projects, to give real-world insights into what a research career is like. For example, my current Australian Research Council project is investigating conversations about advance care plans when someone is seriously ill. We are working to understand the details of how these conversations work so we can improve clinician training, resources for healthcare users, and optimised policies and procedures. Students working with me usually come to fortnightly meetings at our Health Communication Lab, where |

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| | | they can access support from other students and staff in my team. |
| Dr Jose Estevez | jose.estevez@flinders.edu.au | The current research portfolio includes understanding the epidemiology, sociodemographic, biological, genetic and epigenetic aspects of blinding eye diseases relevant to priority populations and, ultimately, how to find better ways to screen for and prevent blindness. My areas of research expertise embrace vision-related functional outcomes and biological and socioeconomic markers of diabetic retinopathy through large-scale population-based eye studies, including longitudinal cohorts. |
| Dr Olivia Farrer | Olivia.farrer@flinders.edu.au | I am a Dietitian, senior lecturer and senior research fellow for national palliative care programs, CareSearch , PalliAGED, and the Allied Health Toolkit for End-of-Life Directions in Aged Care (ELDAC) . My research is translational, focused on upskilling the health and social care workforce in best practice palliative and end-of-life care. (Member of Research Centre for Palliative Care, Death and Dying – RePaDD) |
| Dr Alinka Fisher | alinka.fisher@flinders.edu.au | Alinka's current research focuses on advancing evidence-based behaviour support for people with disability, including those with brain injury and dementia. Her work emphasises positive behaviour support (PBS) practices that uphold and protect human rights, strengthen community capacity, and support workforce development. In 2026, student projects will focus on examining collaborative practices with key stakeholders and effective data collection to inform function-based and person-centred planning. |

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| Dr Jill Garner | Jill.garner@flinders.edu.au | <p>I am neurological physiotherapist working clinically in rehabilitation. My research has focused on clinical reasoning and assessment in the neurological population and the nexus between education and practice.</p> |
| Dr Chad Han | Chad.han@flinders.edu.au | <p>Chad's research focuses on designing, implementing, and evaluating innovative health services and lifestyle interventions for managing chronic conditions, with a strong emphasis on older adults, cancer survivorship, and frailty. This interdisciplinary work integrates nutrition, exercise, and digital health technology (like mHealth apps) to overcome clinical barriers, improve health equity, and enhance functional outcomes and quality of life across the care continuum (hospital-to-home). The goal is to translate evidence into effective, culturally responsive, and sustainable models of care.</p> |
| Associate Professor Stephanie Harrison | stephanie.harrison@flinders.edu.au | <p>The Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA) Research Centre aims to monitor and improve the quality of aged care services for older people in Australia. We use large routinely collected datasets to develop robust observational research to address many research questions about ageing and aged care.</p> |
| Dr Leonie Hewitt | Leonie.Hewitt@Flinders.edu.au | <p>I am a midwife with over three decades of experience in NSW and NZ providing midwifery care especially continuity of midwifery-led care. I have completed qualitative and mixed methods studies looking at continuity of midwifery-led care and how this service is sustained through management.</p> |

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| Dr Sarah Hunter | Sarah.hunter@flinders.edu.au | My research focuses on child and family health. I use knowledge translation and qualitative research methodologies to identify ways in which we can better support parents as they transition into parenthood to improve their own health and wellbeing as well as the health and wellbeing of their children. |
| Associate Professor Maarten Immink | maarten.immink@flinders.edu.au | My research is at the forefront of mind, brain, and cognitive interactions that contribute to human health and performance. Evidence gained from my research supports development of technologies, training programs and interventions aimed at optimising neurocognitive function and enhanced outcomes in mental health, exercise and sport, work, and rehabilitation settings. |
| Dr Diana Khanna | diana.khanna@flinders.edu.au | I am a health economist with expertise in economic evaluation and the measurement of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in children. My research applies mixed method approaches, with a strong emphasis on quantitative analysis, to inform healthcare decision-making and methodological development. I currently have a qualitative dataset ready for analysis and would be happy to discuss potential Honours projects with students interested in health economics, specifically in self-reporting of health outcomes in children. |
| Associate Professor Belinda Lange | belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au | My research involves working with clinicians and people with different conditions to understand how they currently use digital technologies and co-design and evaluate how technologies (e.g. apps, virtual reality, artificial intelligence) can improve care. I have experience working with people with neurological and mental health conditions, older adults, and veteran populations. |

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| Dr Cody Lindsay | Cody.Lindsay@flinders.edu.au | <p>My research explores how sport and exercise technologies can enhance human movement, performance and rehabilitation. I focus on applied biomechanics and innovative data-driven assessments that translate into real-world outcomes. Working with athletes, clinicians and industry partners, I use tools like motion capture, wearable sensors and force platforms to better understand and optimise movement. Available opportunities include validating AI-driven movement assessment tools for clinical practice, analysing AFL kicking mechanics for performance enhancement, and investigating running impact and shock attenuation for injury prevention.</p> |
| Dr Lauren Lines | lauren.lines@flinders.edu.au | <p>My research focuses on supporting families so children grow up healthy and thriving in their own communities and cultures. I can supervise projects relating to child health and paediatrics, with a particular interest in the roles of health professionals as universal touchpoints to support families who are experiencing adversities that impact parenting and children's wellbeing. I am happy to discuss project ideas or for a student to join an existing project.</p> |
| Associate Professor Elizabeth Lynch | elizabeth.lynch@flinders.edu.au | <p>I conduct research to improve the way stroke rehabilitation is delivered, and research to improve quality of life and wellbeing after stroke. I routinely partner with people with lived experience of stroke when doing research</p> |
| Dr Louisa Matwiejczyk | louisa.matwiejczyk@flinders.edu.au | <p>My research focuses on translating knowledge into practice, with a particular emphasis on early childhood nutrition. I apply evidence-based programs and policies in childcare and related settings. I specialise in qualitative research, exploring barriers and enablers, while also engaging in mixed-methods approaches. More recently I lead health profession research exploring the students experience of interprofessional practice or being an International student.</p> |

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| Liz McNeill | liz.mcneill@flinders.edu.au | I support students in a variety of areas including communications skills; missed care; simulation learning; authentic and programmatic assessment; military midwifery and educational transition; diverse gender midwifery experiences; birth trauma & PTSD – veterans, women, midwives, students; Interprofessional learning; digital learning. |
| Dr Georgia Middleton | georgia.middleton@flinders.edu.au | My research focuses on community nutrition, food insecurity, and social and cultural aspects of food, with a special interest in shared eating occasions, such as family meals and school meal programs. I have a particular interest in fostering children's health through supporting the mental, physical and social health of parents' and the family as a unit. |
| Associate Professor Rachel Milte | rachel.milte@flinders.edu.au | We evaluate the cost-effectiveness of new interventions across health, aged, and disability care sectors. We are also interested in measuring the quality of life of diverse people receiving health, aged, and disability care. |
| Associate Professor Amanda Muller | amanda.muller@flinders.edu.au | I am the founder of a consumer-led team of assistance dog handlers. We ask about assistance dog refusals and other barriers of access when using an assistance animal. |
| Dr Katie Nesbitt | katie.nesbitt@flinders.edu.au | I am a registered nurse with over a decade of clinical experience in rural and regional South Australia. My experience delivering healthcare in these settings has informed a research career focused on addressing the systemic disparities faced by populations residing outside metropolitan areas, especially those recovering from cardiovascular disease and stroke. My research encompasses original and high-quality contributions to cardiovascular prevention, secondary prevention and management, with an emphasis on collaborative and innovative methodologies. I adopt a person-centred and evidence-based framework to explore both |

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| | | <p>primary and secondary prevention strategies across diverse population groups and life stages.</p> <p>Guided by the principles of inclusivity and long-term wellbeing, my work seeks to enhance recovery experiences following cardiovascular and stroke events, with particular attention to instilling hope and supporting enduring prevention efforts.</p> |
| Associate Professor Liz Newnham | liz.newnham@flinders.edu.au | <p>My research area focuses on social justice solutions for humanising childbirth through four main streams: birth ethics, birth technology, birth environment and birth practice. I have expertise in medical sociology / anthropology and qualitative research methods.</p> |
| Associate Professor Yvonne Parry | yvonne.parry@flinders.edu.au | <p>Research evaluating acute care or community child focused models of care with extended health access, advanced referral processes and industry collaborations addressing the health and developmental needs of the children. Past students from SP, paramedics and nursing. More than one project is available on request.</p> |
| Professor Catherine Paterson | catherine.paterson@flinders.edu.au | <p>The focus of my applied research is on improving and addressing what matters most to people with cancer. She is a clinical academic, and projects will be aligned with mutual interests and impact in cancer survivorship, MDT integrations, digital health and equity.</p> |
| James Pearce | james.pearce@flinders.edu.au | <p>Paramedicine, prehospital care, paramedic education, scoping reviews, systematic reviews, health research reporting guidelines.</p> |
| Professor Ivanka Prichard | ivanka.prichard@flinders.edu.au | <p>Health psychology; body image across the lifespan, physical activity, food consumption; social media</p> |
| Dr Fiona Rillotta | fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au | <p>My inclusive research works with people with intellectual disability as co-researchers, in areas that are important to them, including: higher education, inclusion, and self advocacy. We use methods that are accessibility to people with intellectual disability.</p> |

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| Dr Mallika Prem Senthil | mallika.premsthil@flinders.edu.au | I am an ophthalmologist, and my focus of research is investigating the utility of ocular imaging as a biomarker for systemic diseases such as peripheral arterial disease, carotid artery disease and idiopathic intracranial hypertension. My other areas of research are patient-reported outcome measures, quality of life and Rasch analysis. |
| Associate Professor Nina Sivertsen | nina.sivertsen@flinders.edu.au | My research focuses on the impacts of colonisation and assimilation on healthcare, with a particular emphasis on integrating culture into mainstream health service delivery. I primarily work in women's and family health, health systems and services research, and contribute to shaping restorative policies and practices that benefit Sámi, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander families. I have several projects suitable for honours students, including scoping and systematic reviews on a range of topics. I am happy to discuss potential project ideas or explore opportunities for students to join existing projects. |
| Dr Rowaida Sleem | Rowaida.sleem@flinders.edu.au | My research background focuses on Sexual Health, Sex Education, STIs, and innovative anatomy education. My doctoral research focuses on improving sexual health education, with a particular emphasis on enhancing STI knowledge, prevention, and communication in young adults. |
| Dr Priyanka Vandersman | Priyanka.Vandersman@flinders.edu.au | I am a registered nurse with expertise in digital health, aged care, and end-of-life care research. My work examines how technology and data can strengthen the aged care workforce and enhance care quality for older people. I apply mixed-methods approaches to address complex, practice-based questions. Having completed my own Honours-to-PhD journey, I understand the process well and provide a supportive, approachable supervision style that helps students develop |

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| | | confidence, skills, and a strong sense of purpose in their research. |
| Dr Claudia Virdun | Claudia.virdun@flinders.edu.au | I'm a registered nurse and Senior Lecturer in Palliative and End of Life Care at Flinders University. My work focuses on improving care for people with serious illness by embedding consumer voice, developing evidence-based guidelines, and supporting clinical teams to make meaningful changes in practice. I'm passionate about workforce development and answering research questions that are practical and clinically relevant. Having completed my own Honours-to-PhD journey, I offer a supportive, approachable supervision style to help students grow confidence, skills, and purpose in their research. |
| Dr Matthew Wallen | matthew.wall@flinders.edu.au | I am an Exercise Scientist and Exercise Physiologist with significant expertise optimising the health and wellbeing of people living with and beyond cancer. Specifically, my research focuses on three major themes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improving physiological and psychological resilience before cancer treatment, termed 'prehabilitation', 2. optimising the 'dose' of non-pharmacological interventions for health benefits, and 3. implementation of innovative models of care |
| Dr Melanie Wittwer | Melanie.wittwer@flinders.edu.au | I'm a multidisciplinary researcher based at the Lyell McEwin Hospital in northern Adelaide. Safe@home is an NHMRC-funded randomised controlled trial comparing a telehealth-based disease management service with usual care for |

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| | | patients with heart failure, COPD and diabetes. The trial is based at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. Honours projects would be based primarily onsite and involve participant data collection and investigation into secondary study outcomes within a clinical and research team. |
| Dr Rosalie Yandall | rosalie.yandell@flinders.edu.au | I am an Accredited Practicing Dietitian, clinical teaching specialist, and placement education coordinator. My research in acute care nutrition has been widely published. Please contact me for Honours projects related to dietetics. |
| Dr Alison Yaxley | alison.yaxley@flinders.edu.au | I am a dietitian researching mainly with older adults in healthy ageing and aged care, particularly home-based aged care at the moment. I also have track record in researching malnutrition, nutritional screening and assessment, food service and clinical nutrition with many populations and in many settings. I have successfully supervised over 30 Honours students and can provide the appropriate level of support to help you to develop as a novice researcher. Please contact me to discuss any nutrition related areas of interest. |
| Dr Angela Rong Yang Zhang | Angela.zhang@flinders.edu.au | Transdisciplinary Health Sciences: My research focuses on improving care quality and equity in aged and long-term care through a transdisciplinary lens that bridges medical anthropology, health sciences, and social policy. I examine how lived experiences, care practices, and institutional systems shape well-being, identity, and relationships within residential and home-based care. Drawing on ethnographic and multimodal qualitative methods, including sensory ethnography, visual analysis, and narrative inquiry, I explore the moral and relational dimensions of care work, autonomy, and vulnerability. My work seeks to inform the co-design of person-centred and contextually grounded care models that |

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| | | <p>enhance quality of life for older people and other vulnerable populations. It also contributes to policy development, workforce education, and the integration of digital and assistive technologies in care environments. Through collaboration across health, engineering, and social sciences, I aim to generate practice-based knowledge that bridges human experience with system-level innovation and sustainability in the health and social care sectors.</p> |
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