Research exploring child and youth wellbeing is limited by measures frequently derived from deficit-based, adult-centric, unidimensional data lacking a cultural lens. The Our Voices project sought to address some of these limitations by co-designing an app with young people to collect their own multi-modal, qualitative views of wellbeing. The goals of the project are to make sense of young people’s understandings of wellbeing and to explore the methodological possibilities of working with such a novel and complex dataset.

Given the large-scale nature of the data (almost 1000 participants), there are several possible thesis projects that would align with the Our Voices goals. Projects could span one or more areas of wellbeing and/or utilise different research methodologies, such as thematic analysis or machine learning to make sense of youth experiences.

Potential projects include a focus on:
- emotional patterns of young people over time,
- challenges and highlights of the transition to high school
- experiences of how wellbeing captured by the Our Voices project align with earlier indicators and determinants of wellbeing.

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Contact: Kane Meissel
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A one-time doctoral scholarship is available for an outstanding full-time applicant. The successful applicant will undertake a PhD with one or more of the following members of the supervision team: Associate Professors Kane Meissel, Liz Peterson, Professor Yun Sing Koh, Drs Pat Bullen, John Fenaughty, and Georgia Rudd

Our Voices: what wellbeing means to young people

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

- Scholarship valued at $33,000 p.a. plus compulsory fees for up to 36 months full-time study
- Available to full-time domestic students and domestic fee-paying international students
- Paid work may not exceed 750 hours per 12-month period of scholarship tenure
- Applicants who already have a doctorate or are already enrolled are not eligible for consideration

DUE DATES

- Expressions of interest due 1 October 2024
- Application for doctoral programme due 1 November 2024
- Enrolment in doctoral programme required by 1 March or 1 June 2025 (or 1 September for international candidates)

CONTACT
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