

2025/2026 Graduate Scholarship Recipient

Laura Thum

Collaboration for Evidence, Research
and Impact in Public Health

About me

I recently graduated from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion. Throughout my studies, I developed a strong passion for health equity and ensuring all individuals have opportunities to achieve better health outcomes. I am particularly interested in working in the community sector to enable and empower underserved populations to overcome barriers to accessing health care and services. I am committed to advocating for systemic change and creating inclusive environments that support equitable health outcomes for all.

About the project

My project aims to support Western Australian health promotion organisations to increase meaningful participation in peer-based health promotion by underserved populations, specifically young people, LGBTIQ+ people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, by establishing and piloting a capacity-building Community of Practice (CoP), PEER+. I will be working alongside researchers at the Collaboration for Evidence, Research and Impact in Public Health (CERIPH) at Curtin University to undertake this project.

The first phase of this project aims to build on the evidence base on the impact of peer-based approaches in health promotion with underserved populations. This phase will involve identifying existing tools and frameworks used in peer-based and peer-led health promotion programs and an assessment of peer workers' and service providers' perspectives on the opportunities and challenges in the planning, implementation and evaluation of peer-based health promotion programs.

Using principles of partnership and participatory action, the second phase will foster service providers' capacity to deliver peer-based health promotion programs with underserved populations through the establishment of the CoP. The CoP will support practitioners to implement peer-based health promotion programs by enhancing skills and facilitating knowledge translation. The CoP will act as a collaborative platform for knowledge synthesis, application, dissemination and translation.

