

Allocate time to do some deep thinking – spend one hour every second day for two weeks. The alternate days give you time to reflect and let your ideas percolate in your brain. Or you might double this allocation, as thinking and writing the answers below does take time.

Prepare to write your researcher identity by answering these questions.

### **What makes you unique?**

Here is an example of a unique point.

*My years nursing chronic wounds enabled me to develop a risk assessment tool for delayed healing of chronic wounds which predicts with 80% accuracy whether a wound will heal within 24 weeks.*

Here is another example.

*My real-world experience as a teacher and leader in remote schools means Resource X, which I developed, will build trauma-informed teachers who can support students and address trauma behaviours of children in remote communities.*

Here is an example of another unique point.

*I examine through the lens of neuroscience the impact of complex trauma – physical, emotional and sexual abuse, serious*

*neglect, and family violence – on brain development and functioning, and the school experiences of victims.*

Remember your unique point is not the same as your differentiator. Identifying what makes you unique and different from your colleagues is challenging. Your unique point can include personal attributes and experiences. Your differentiator could be the difference between your expertise and that of your colleagues in your field.

### **What is your differentiator?**

Here is an example of a differentiator.

*I research stakeholder and community engagement as a relational communication process that aims to build social capital and contribute to civic outcomes.*

Here is another example.

*I am an expert symmetric (not asymmetric) cryptologist investigating encryption algorithms that use shared secret keys to protect information.*

### **What is it about your uniqueness and differentiator that makes you valuable?**

Here is an example.

*I am an interaction analyst whose research explores the hidden worlds of children's lives in the home, school and playground. I use video-ethnography and video-stimulated accounts to involve children as analysers of their own experiences, and teacher-researchers to reflect on their own practice. I work with the Department of Education to create professional learning resources for educators that identify effective communicative strategies between educators and children.*

*My research develops empirically informed teaching strategies that help educators create safe and supportive social environments for learning.*

Here is another example.

*My unique factor is my national reputation in consumer partnership methods, enabling successful health and medical research that involves consumers. My differentiator (from other consumer behaviour researchers) is my accreditation in Luma design thinking, democratising knowledge that gives people a voice and allows them to be active participants in decision-making processes that affect their lives.*

### **What examples tell your story?**

I'm assuming you have a file for all your achievements. Perhaps you have an Excel spreadsheet on your desktop. You can use these examples to illustrate how you and your research are distinct. If you don't have a file, start one immediately!

I like the PepTalkHer app. You can use it to keep track of your career wins and the milestones you hit, and save emails from happy clients and photos of events where you present. This evidence builds your researcher identity. When you keep it up to date, it will surprise you how successful you have been. The PepTalkHer app is suitable for everyone to use.

Keep all the information from this exercise together because you will use it in a moment to craft a complete researcher identity statement.