



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Department of Rural Health
Melbourne Medical School



Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities

About the course

Students undertaking the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities will gain advanced understanding of how both Aboriginal and Western knowledges can be applied to the field of health in rural communities as well as community development and project management skills.

The course introduces students to health-related knowledges from critical social science and Aboriginal cultural perspectives; empowering Aboriginal health professionals in their place of work and allowing students to study and work in their communities for the development of both.

Selection criteria

The aim of the Specialist Certificate is to increase the tertiary education levels of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australians who live and work in their community. It encourages Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australian students who have significant experience in health and/or working in and for their communities to extend their studies and knowledge beyond the TAFE sector, providing opportunities for further tertiary courses if they choose.

The Specialist Certificate is a pathway into the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Health in Rural Communities and the Master of Public Health at The University of Melbourne, which aspires to create future leaders in specific communities.



Artwork:

Norm Stewart, Kidneys of the Dungala, 2014
Community / Language Group: Yorta Yorta
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In order to be considered for entry, applicants must have completed one of the following:

- a bachelor degree, or
- two years of documented work experience in a field related to Aboriginal health and/or Aboriginal community development (Indigenous applicants only), or
- equivalent work experience (seven years documented) in a field related to Aboriginal health and/or Aboriginal community development.

English competency will be required.
Meeting these requirements does not guarantee selection.

Course structure

This is a part time course consisting of two compulsory subjects taken over two semesters:

CURCHG0012130

Utilising knowledge in Aboriginal health

CURCHG0012133

Health projects in Aboriginal settings

To complete this course you will need to:

- take part in the compulsory intensive teaching blocks at the Department of Rural Health, main campus (Shepparton) (100% attendance required)
- have access to reliable internet connection/s
- be able to accommodate a minimum time commitment of 15 hours per week for each subject
- have appropriate access to, and relationships within, an Aboriginal community to conduct a community-based project.

Career opportunities

The course is designed to develop an Aboriginal health workforce and provide entry level opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to engage in tertiary education. It provides a pathway into the Master of Public Health and may assist students with meeting the entry requirements of other health-related courses. The course has been designed for those who work in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community and health-related fields as Aboriginal health workers, health service managers, practitioners, consumer advocacy and/or policy group roles.

Fees

The fee for each subject (2020) is \$2108.

Fee Help is available and there are a number of scholarship and financial support options available to Indigenous students. The Department of Rural Health may also provide financial assistance for fees and direct expenses. (Note: assistance is limited and subject to eligibility criteria and availability; please contact Gwenda Freeman for more information.)

Assistance for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students

Specialist Aboriginal Health educators will provide individualised assistance to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students throughout the course. This may include:

- guidance with application and enrolment
- assistance with accessing financial assistance packages for fees and travel related costs (subject to eligibility criteria & availability)
- design and provision of individualised training and mentoring programs
- support to identify relevant community projects



Further information or to apply

To discuss this course further or for advice on applying please contact:

Gwenda Freeman: gwenda.freeman@unimelb.edu.au
Phone: +61 3 5823 4557 or 0417 580 931 or
Department of Rural Health: drh-info@unimelb.edu.au
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