



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Melbourne
Medical School
Department
of Rural Health

Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities



Start your journey towards a University qualification

Are you passionate about the health of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people?

Are you wanting to gain skills and a qualification to progress in your career and open up new opportunities?

The Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals, who have worked in and community settings, an opportunity to gain a university qualification based on your work experience. This course empowers you in your place of work, allowing you to study and work within your community.

The course introduces health related knowledges from critical social science and Aboriginal cultural perspectives and you will gain community development and project management skills.

**How does the course run?
Can I keep working?**

This is a part-time course consisting of two subjects taken over one year. The course is run in a way that enables you to continue to work while studying, provided you can attend the compulsory intensive study week (in Shepparton) early in each semester.

"We take a small group who get to know each other, support each other and work together to complete the course. It's a great environment to start your university education."

- Prof Lisa Bourke, Director

After the study week the student group meet weekly throughout the semester for a tutorial, either on campus or via Zoom, and you will read articles and write assignments in your own time.

We provide individual support to help you complete the course throughout the year.

What are the study dates and when are the compulsory study weeks that I need to attend?

In 2024, the compulsory intensive study weeks will be:

Mon 26 February - Fri 1 March 2024

Mon 22 July - Fri 26 July 2024

In your first semester (26 February - 26 May) you will complete the subject *Utilising Knowledge in Aboriginal Health* (RURA90008)

go.unimelb.edu.au/3m2s

In your second semester (22 July - 20 October) you will complete *Health Projects in Aboriginal Settings* (RURA90009)

go.unimelb.edu.au/qm2s

In this subject you will work on a project in your community or workplace.



12 month course,
part-time



Culturally safe space



Remote study within
your community

25

25 credit points towards the
Master of Public Health

What is the support offered?

In addition to the support provided in the weekly tutorials, we can assist you to:

- Apply and enrol for the course
- Access any financial/scholarship opportunities
- Develop the skills you need to complete the required work.

Am I eligible?

This course takes into account your work experience. To undertake the course you need to have two years work experience in a field related to Aboriginal health or community development or a bachelor degree (Indigenous applicants only). Non-Indigenous applicants need to have a relationship with an Aboriginal community, including some work experience in Aboriginal health and community development; plus - an undergraduate degree, or at least seven years' work experience altogether.

What does it cost?

A number of scholarships are available each year for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to cover either all, or part, of the course fee cost. (Subject to eligibility).

You can also apply for Fee Help – so the Government pays for you, and you pay it back in small amounts through your tax, when you are at a certain income level.

The fee for each subject is \$2352.

What happens once I've completed this?

Once you graduate you will be able to continue your studies in the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Health in Rural Communities – another two subjects (from the Master of Public Health course) over one year. These subjects can then be counted towards a Master of Public Health for those wishing to undertake more study.

These subjects may also be counted towards Post Graduate studies at other Universities, and will assist with your being accepted into relevant courses.

Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities



Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Health in Rural Communities



Master of Public Health



PhD

I'm interested!

To find out more please contact one of our team to talk about this in more detail. They will be able to provide assistance with the application and enrolment process and to help you start planning to do the course. You can find more information at:

study.unimelb.edu.au/how-to-apply

The last date you can enrol for 2024 is 19 February 2024 but we recommend you do this much earlier as it takes time and you need to provide documents.

Further information or to apply

go.unimelb.edu.au/j4he

Department of Rural Health

E: aboriginal-health@unimelb.edu.au

Ph: +61 3 5321 4160 or
+61 3 5823 4500 (Option 1)



To find out more scan this QR code



Meet Chanoa Seala

Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities student, Chanoa Seala, completed the course and shares how it's positively impacted her.

Why did you choose to study the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities?

I was previously a Project Officer at Rumbalara Positive Ageing & Disability Services. I worked in the NDIS space and provided community with supports to gain access to NDIS.

I also played a business support role that sourced funding in the area and looked at various Aged Care & Disability models across our region in the Loddon Mallee, Goulburn Valley and Hume areas. It was during this role that my Executive Manager at the time, approached me and asked if I wanted to have a go at taking on the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities course. With the support and flexibility to work and study, I thought why not take up this opportunity? So, I went for it.

Since graduating how has the course helped you in your career?

The Specialist Certificate has opened a lot of different opportunities for me. After completing the course, I was fortunate enough to be selected for the Jawun Emerging Leaders Program – which allowed me to travel to regional and remote Aboriginal communities across Australia to learn about community models. During this time, I undertook a management role within Communications & Public Relations.

I believe that taking on this course has equipped me with the skills needed for this role and beyond. I'm fortunate enough to be able to utilise my skills to advocate for our mob and demonstrate change. I am now in a position where I'm able to control our narrative from deficit language to strength-based.

What advice would you give to other students considering doing the course?

I would recommend this course to those who are interested in further studies. It is a great opportunity if you are interested in Aboriginal Health. My advice would be to stay the course and commit to it! It's a safe space for students to ask questions, learn and grow.