



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Department of Rural Health  
Melbourne Medical School



# START YOUR JOURNEY TOWARDS A UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATION

## SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN EMPOWERING HEALTH IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

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 introduces health-related knowledges from critical social science and Aboriginal cultural perspectives. The course offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals who have worked in health 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.

### 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 in your regular job, provided you can attend the compulsory intensive study week (in Shepparton) early in each semester.

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.

*"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."*



12 month course,  
part-time



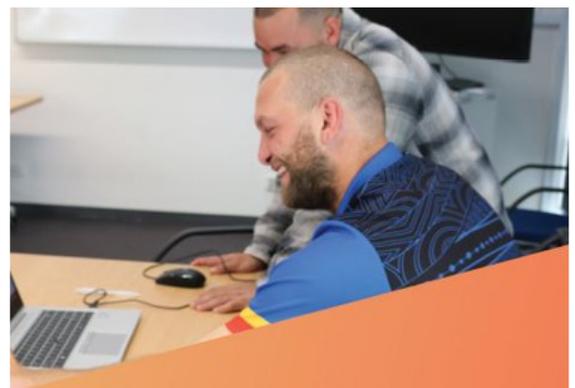
Culturally  
safe space



Remote study  
within your  
community

**25**  
CREDIT POINTS

towards the  
Master of  
Public Health



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

In 2023, the compulsory intensive study weeks will be:

**Mon 27 February - Fri 3 March 2023**

**Mon 24 July - Fri 28 July 2023**

In your first semester (**27 February - 28 May**) you will complete the subject *Utilising Knowledge in Aboriginal Health* (RURA90008)

[go.unimelb.edu.au/h9bi](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/h9bi)

In your second semester (**24 July - 22 October**) you will complete *Health Projects in Aboriginal Settings* (RURA90009)

[go.unimelb.edu.au/f9bi](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/f9bi)

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

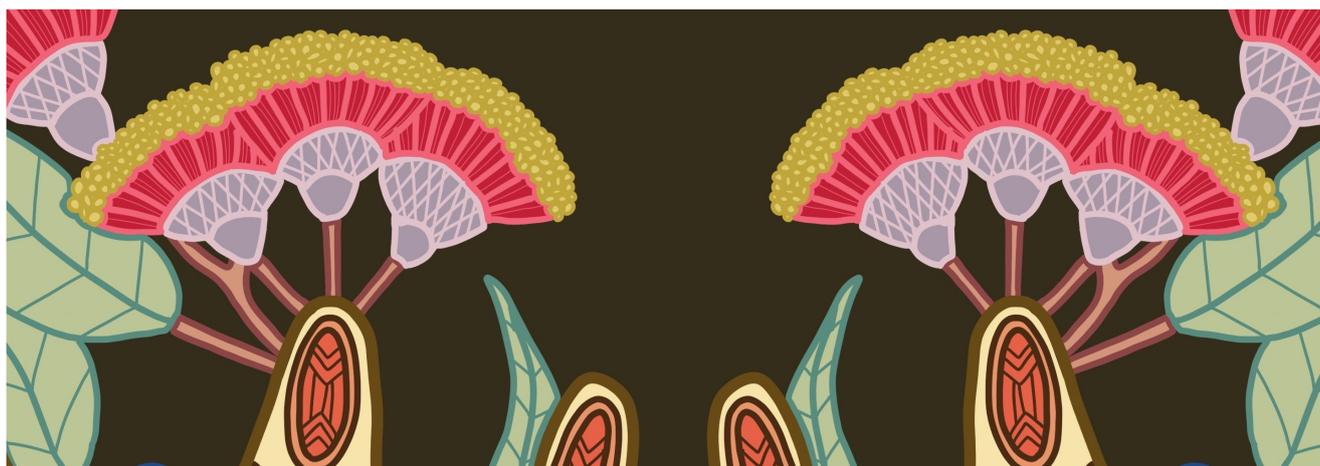
## What is the support offered?

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

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

### Artwork:

Rebecca Atkinson, *Empowering our People*  
2019 © Rebecca Atkinson



## 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?

The fee for each subject is \$2240 – however you can 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. You may also be eligible for scholarships and bursaries that are available or your employer may provide fee support.

## 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 other Post Graduate studies at any University and will assist with your being accepted into relevant courses.

## 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: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/how-to-apply>

The last date you can enrol for 2023 is 20 February 2023 but we recommend you do this much earlier as it takes time and you need to provide documents.

## Further information or to apply

<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/j4he>

Department of Rural Health

E: [aboriginal-health@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aboriginal-health@unimelb.edu.au)

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



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