

Renewal of Registered Nursing Intellectual Disability Curriculum *Building capacity in the nursing workforce to meet the complex health care needs of people with an intellectual disability.*



“This national audit of nursing curricula is a vital first step in ensuring that Australian nursing graduates have the knowledge, skills and confidence to meet the complex health care needs of people with an intellectual disability.”

Professor Karen Dodd, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, LaTrobe University/Bundoora

Intellectual disability content in undergraduate registered nursing curricula – a national audit

We would like to invite you to participate in a 15 minute telephone interview as part of a national audit of intellectual disability content in undergraduate registered nursing curricula.

Just over half a million Australians have an intellectual disability and compared to the general population they experience a disproportionately high burden of disease and illness and poorer health outcomes. Please [click here](#) to watch Associate Professor Julian Trollor, Professor Andrew Cashin, Dr Linda Goddard and Karen Alexanderson discuss the poor health status of people with an intellectual disability and the need for a national curriculum audit.

Participation in this project will require either yourself or a nominated representative to complete a brief 15 minute telephone interview. During the interview, you will be asked about your university's registered nursing program, current patterns of student enrolment and the nature and amount of intellectual disability content in your degree. It will also provide an opportunity for you to identify potential participants from within your nursing school to complete the second phase of this project, an online audit of intellectual disability content in undergraduate registered nursing curriculum. As intellectual disability content can be found across a number of study areas we will also request your permission to contact the heads of clinical departments, subject and year coordinators' and other relevant staff who may be able to assist with the audit.

Through this audit we hope to document the nature and amount of intellectual disability content delivered to nursing students across Australia. This information will provide the background for the subsequent development of additional resources for nursing schools who wish to enhance the preparedness of their graduates in this area.

[Letters of support](#) for this project have been received from: Southern Cross University, The University of Melbourne, LaTrobe University, The University of Queensland and Charles Sturt University.

How to participate

To participate in the telephone interview, please reply to this email and our Project Officer will arrange a suitable time to conduct the interview. If you prefer, you can provide answers to the questions in written format. We have also attached a copy of the participant information sheet to the invitation email and encourage you to read it. If you do complete the interview, you are implying that you have read the participant information sheet and that you freely consent to taking part in this project. If you have any questions regarding the project please do not hesitate to contact our Project Officer, on (02) 9385 2208 or IDhealth@unsw.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,



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Prof Andrew Cashin School of Health and Human Sciences, Southern Cross University
Ms Karen Alexanderson Ageing, Disability and Homecare NSW

This project is being undertaken by the Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry, University of NSW in partnership with The University of Queensland, Charles Sturt University, La Trobe University, and Ageing, Disability and Homecare NSW. This project has received approval from the UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval No: 2013-7-03) and is funded through Ageing Disability and Homecare NSW.

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