WHO SHOULD DO THE MPH INDIGENOUS HEALTH SPECIALISATION?

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Indigenous Health Specialisation is applicable for anyone who works, or aims to work, with Indigenous people and communities, whether it be in health research, policy, programs, consulting or service delivery.

It equips an expanding workforce in Indigenous public health with specialist knowledge that aligns with their work and capacity to operate effectively within an environment of changing social, economic and political circumstances.

It provides graduates with the knowledge and skills to take a leadership role in Indigenous health and increase their capacity to implement and manage effective public health solutions. The program is aimed at addressing the gap between Indigenous health status and that of the broader Australian population in a culturally and socially appropriate way.

The Indigenous Health Specialisation is built around three themes:

1. Understanding the gap in health status through developing an insight into current Indigenous health issues and the historical antecedents shaping contemporary social determinants and health needs;
2. Shaping responses to Indigenous public health issues by equipping students with specialist knowledge in Indigenous health policy, leadership and management, programs, service delivery and research;
3. Closing the health gap by providing students with an understanding of Indigenous health program development, implementation and evaluation in diverse Indigenous contexts.
WHAT IS THE MPH INDIGENOUS HEALTH COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND?

The MPH Indigenous Health Collaboration – led by Professor Kerry Arabena, Chair of Indigenous Health at The University of Melbourne, and Professor Cindy Shannon, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education) at The University of Queensland – aims to offer a broad MPH program specialising in Indigenous health.

The Australian Government Department of Health and the Lowitja Institute have provided funding to aid in the development of this program.

Students are expected to complete their core units, a minimum of three Indigenous Health Specialisation elective units, additional electives to meet their program requirement and a Capstone experience with their university of enrolment. Students have the option to undertake up to two of their Indigenous Health Specialisation electives via cross-institutional enrolment from the partner institution.

The program is designed to offer students a broad choice of specialisation units and to experience learning programs that reflect diverse Indigenous contexts. It also provides an opportunity for students to engage with a range of Indigenous health academics and practitioners.

The combination of flexible delivery modes, including internal, external, online and intensive blocks, allows students to structure their program to suit their individual needs.

THE INDIGENOUS HEALTH SPECIALISATION AT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

**Core Units**
- Introduction to Environmental Health
- Introduction to Epidemiology
- Health Systems
- Social Perspectives in Population Health
- Introduction to Biostatistics

**Indigenous Health Plan Defining Electives**
- Issues in Indigenous Health
- Substance Use and Misuse among Indigenous People
- Indigenous Health Policy

**Capstones**
- Project
- Public Health Practice
- Dissertation

For more information, please refer to The University of Queensland School of Public Health handbook:
www.sph.uq.edu.au

**Contacts**

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THE INDIGENOUS HEALTH SPECIALISATION AT THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH, THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

**Core Units**
- Foundations of Public Health
- Epidemiology 1
- Biostatistics
- Qualitative Research in Public Health
- Public Health Leadership & Management

**Indigenous Health Specialisation Electives**
- Indigenous Health and History
- Indigenous Health: From Data to Practice
- Working in the Indigenous Health Sector

**Capstones**
- Research Project in Public Health
- Professional Practice Unit
- Public Health in Practice

**Contacts**

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“I did a first-year subject called Indigenous Health and History which fuelled my desire to undertake a MPH Indigenous Health Specialisation.

I really loved that subject and subsequently developed a strong interest in the field, which led me to complete other Indigenous health subjects and specialise in the area.

Now I’m working at the Victorian Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisation (VACCHO) in a team focused on chronic disease.”

Claire Kavanagh, Master of Public Health Indigenous Health Specialisation