

Far West Extended Nursing Placement Program

Student Placement Promotion Flyer



ABOUT

The Far West Extended Nursing Placement Program (ENPP) is a collaboration between the Far West Local Health District (FWLHD) directorate of nursing and midwifery, the University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA) School of Nursing (Sydney), Western Sydney University (WSU) School of Nursing and Midwifery, the University of Sydney (USYD) Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery and Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health (BHUDRH), to design an innovative extended nursing placement program including Broken Hill, other regional centers and Robinvale (Victoria).

Additional regional stakeholders engaged in the ENPP include: the Royal Flying Doctor Service - South Eastern Section (RFDS), Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, Murray Valley Aboriginal Cooperative (MVAC), Robinvale District Health Services (RDHS), Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC), Buronga HealthOne and Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS).

Final year, Bachelor of Nursing Students from participating universities are eligible to apply for this program.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
AUSTRALIA

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



For additional information on the FWENPP please contact:

UNDA:

Michelle DeLeon | Acting Deputy Head of Discipline
Email: michelle.de.leon@nd.edu.au

WSU:

Sue Willis | Director Clinical
Email: n.mcintosh@westernsydney.edu.au

USYD:

Kazuma (Kaz) Honda | ENPP Coordinator
Email: kazuma.honda@sydney.edu.au

1. Program Aims:

The ENPP Program Aims to:

- a) Enhance consolidation of theoretical and practice knowledge through an extended rural and remote placement experience;
- b) Support participating nursing students to acquire work readiness attributes and enhance their future employability outcomes; and
- c) Support students to align nursing theory and practice to the contemporary health needs and expectations of Australian communities.

2. Proposed Schedule:

The multi-university program, will commence in semester 1 for University of Sydney students and semester 2 for Notre Dame Australia and Western Sydney students, for an extended placement of 20 weeks. An expression of interest to participate in the program is now being sought. Nursing students accepted into this placement will work alongside nursing academics, educators and clinicians for the duration of their placement. It is proposed that the program will be structured in the following way, although this may be subject to change:

- One 1 week intensive orientation, induction and preparation in Broken Hill prior to students being released for placement to their host sites;
- A 14 week placement in a primary host agency in Far West NSW and North West Victoria (including a 1 week mid semester release).
- A four (4) week rotation to a secondary host site in the region (including Robinvale); and
- A final week in Broken Hill to enable students to reflect on their placement, provide feedback on placement structure and their experiences, explore program participation impacts, and facilitation of placement.

Students will be placed in their primary host agency for three (3) days a week and will be released for two (2) days to access core and elective unit of study coursework (e.g. Monday-Wednesday in a primary host site and Thursday-Friday curriculum/study release).

During secondary placements, students will be allocated full time (Monday-Friday).

3. Proposed Host Sites:

Host sites in Broken Hill may include: Palliative Care; Community Mental Health, Chronic Disease Program; the Primary Health Care Registered Nurses Schools Based Program, Broken Hill Base Hospital and Aboriginal Health including Maari Ma. Victorian placements will include: Robinvale District Health Services and Sunraysia Community Health Services, Wilcannia; Menindee; Royal Flying Doctors Service (Broken Hill); Buronga HealthOne; Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation and Murray Valley Aboriginal Cooperative, which are community based orientated services.

Endeavors will be made to allocate students to primary and secondary sites that align with their core or elective units of study and their areas of interest for future career aspirations. However, primary and secondary host sites have limited placement capacity so all students may not be able to be allocated to a placement preference. The following questions and answers sheet provides additional program information.

Questions & Answers

Question 1: What do I need to consider before I apply for this program?

Answer: You will need to consider whether you have any family, academic, or economic obligations that could detrimentally impact your ability to successfully undertake this extended placement. You will be living, working and studying in Far West NSW/South West NSW/Robinvale (Victoria) for 20 weeks from your home and health care services. It is important to remember that whilst this placement is about enhancing your learning experiences, it is also about health care provision in rural and remote locations and professional responsibility for these communities. Consider carefully whether there is any risk that your own obligations and/or health and family requirements might detrimentally impact on yourself, your host site, peers and host communities. If there are significant risks this may not be the placement for you.

Question 2 : Is there an application process for this program?

Answer: There is a comprehensive application process associated with this program. Students interested in applying will need to: (1) express an interest to participate to their own university academics (2) follow their universities' procedure for placement (3) participate in a formal interview if considered an appropriate candidate to join the program; and (4) complete a student placement agreement prior to placement commencement.

Question 3: Are there any personal characteristics that will promote my success in this program?

Answer: Students who are self-motivated, independent, actively engaged in their learning, inquisitive, non-judgemental, respectful and adventurous tend to seek out, and do well on extended rural and remote placements. Consider whether you think you have these personal characteristics prior to progressing your interest in participating in this program.

Question 4: Are there any fees associated with this program?

Answer: Students participating in this program will be charged a small placement coordination fee of \$25 a week. However, home universities can elect to pay this fee on behalf of their students. This process is still being explored and a decision will be made in the near future.

Question 5: Is there any financial assistance to support me in participating in this program?

Answer: A scholarship is available. \$7000 is provided by NSW Nursing and Midwifery Office, Ministry of Health and there is an opportunity to apply for an additional \$1000.

Question 6: How do I get to Broken Hill?

Answer: You can catch a bus or weekly train to Broken Hill from Sydney. REX and Qantas Airlines provide a service to Broken Hill from Sydney, Adelaide or Melbourne. However, it is strongly recommended that you or your peers arrange to bring a vehicle with you. Having your own transport will provide you with greater autonomy and flexibility in traveling between your student accommodation and host sites, shopping and regional tourism activities. You may want to discuss transport arrangements with the other nursing students who are participating in the program. Limited public transport is available in Broken Hill and in the other remote locations.

Question 7: Where will I stay and how much will it cost me?

Answer: Free student accommodation will be provided as part of the ENPP in both your primary and remote host sites. This accommodation is managed by the BHUDRH. Once you have been accepted into the program you will be allocated to your accommodation. The region has a high level of student placement activity and you may be placed in shared accommodation with students from other health disciplines and universities.

Question 8: Can my family, partner, friends or pets come and stay with me in the student accommodation?

Answer: All student accommodation in Far West NSW is considered to be shared accommodation (i.e. 2 or 4 bedroom units and houses with 2-3 bedrooms). You will be sharing this accommodation with other students studying within a health discipline. Families, partners and friends are requested to find alternative accommodation should they wish to visit you whilst you are on placement. A list of available accommodation in Broken Hill and region can be obtained from the BHUDRH Student Program Team. No pets are allowed in student accommodation. Students wishing to have family, partners, friends and pets with them on placement can explore alternative accommodation options, however no financial support can be provided through this program.

Question 9: Will I meet the other successful students before the placement starts?

Answer: There will be two (2) facilitated meetings where the students who have been selected to participate in the ENPP will get to meet each other. Additional placement information and guidance will also be provided for these meetings. This will include a Zoom meeting with nursing academics and educators located in Broken Hill and Far West NSW.

Question 10: Can I use the weeks associated with this placement to meet other semester clinical placement requirements?

Answer: No, you cannot use the extended weeks associated with this placement to address the placement requirements of other semesters. The extended clinical weeks provided in this program are additional to those that you have already undertaken.

Question 11: Do I need to wear a uniform during placement?

Answer: Please ensure that you dress appropriately for your placement. We suggest wearing your university's uniform if one has been provided. If not, smart attire consisting of dress pants/skirt, shirt and enclosed shoes will be sufficient.

Question 12: Do I need to complete a cultural awareness module?

Answer: Please be advised it is compulsory to complete the online cultural awareness module before arriving for orientation. This is compulsory requirement of all students undertaking placement in Far West NSW.

Question 13: What happens if something goes wrong while I am on placement?

Answer: A host site preceptor and a university academic team including regional nurse academics and student program coordinators (BHUDRH) will be available to you if you experience any clinical, professional, family, relationship, or social challenges whilst participating in the program. Students will also maintain existing links with their University's teaching and support staff. Students participating in this program will be encouraged to seek assistance as soon as possible so relevant support structures can be put into place. Students will also participate in structured reflection sessions that will cover clinical, professional, social and civic placement experiences. These sessions will support students in gaining a greater understanding of the region, the role of nurses in health care provision, and community dynamics. Participating students will also be encouraged to raise any concerns with the facilitators of the reflection sessions. If your preceptor/host site raise any clinical, professional, social or civic concerns associated with your placement, these concerns will be discussed with you and your university academic team. Learning plans and additional supports will then be provided to help you address these concerns. Wherever possible, existing university policies will be followed.

Question 14: How will COVID 19 impact travelling to Far West NSW?

Answer: Students participating in the ENPP will be required to adhere to NSW Ministry of Health policy and guidelines relating to COVID 19. Students may be required to provide evidence of a negative COVID 19 test result on arrival and 5 days post arrival in the region depending on the current status of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Question 15: Is the program being evaluated?

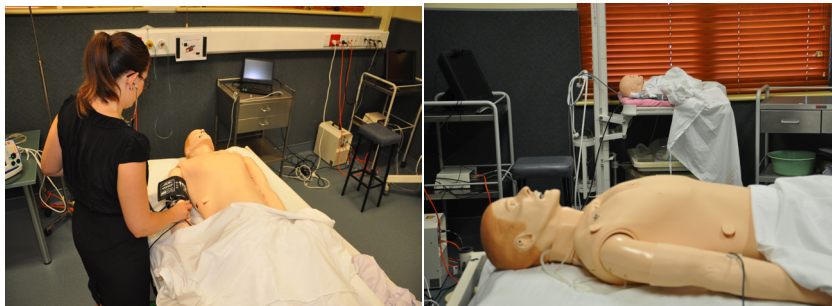
Answer: Yes, data is routinely collected to understand if the program is meeting the needs of participating students, their host sites, and communities in Far West NSW as well as what parts of the program work well and what parts may need to be improved. Students, nursing academics, nurse supervisors and host site managers have the opportunity to participate in routine feedback surveys and end of program interview sessions that seek to answer these questions and contribute to program improvements. All students who complete the ENPP are invited to partake in the longitudinal study associated to the program. Participation is completely voluntary.

For Further Frequently Asked Questions visit: www.bhudrh.com.au/student-information/faq

THE BROKEN HILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH



BHUDRH Library, Computer Lab and Library Hub



Clinical Wing - Simulation Lab



BHUDRH Research Centre



Students on Placement



A VARIETY OF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE



BROKEN HILL AND SURROUNDING AREAS



ROYAL FLYING DOCTORS (BROKEN HILL)



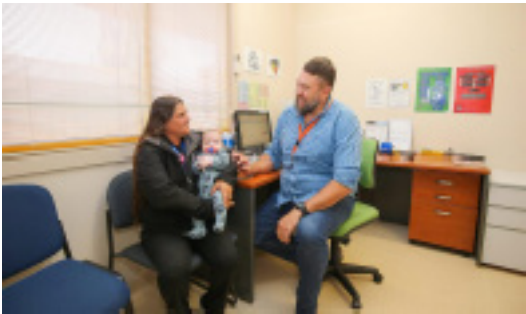
ROBINVALE DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES



COOMEALLA HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



MURRAY VALLEY ABORIGINAL COOPERATIVE



MAP OF THE FWLHD AND ROBINVALE

