

Master of Public Health Indigenous Health Specialisation

A collaboration between the University of Melbourne and The University of Queensland



Professor Kerry Arabena
Chair of Indigenous Health
Melbourne School of
Population and Global Health
The University of Melbourne



Professor Cindy Shannon
Pro Vice-Chancellor
(Indigenous Education)
The University of Queensland

Who should do the Indigenous Health MPH Specialisation?

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

What is the Indigenous Health MPH Specialisation?

Indigenous Health is a specialisation within the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. It equips the expanding workforce in Indigenous public health with specialist knowledge aligned 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 specialisation is built around three themes:

- (1) Understanding the gap in health status through developing an insight into contemporary Indigenous health issues and the historical antecedents shaping contemporary social determinants and health needs;
- (2) Shaping the response by providing students with specialist knowledge in Indigenous health policy, leadership and management, service delivery and research;
- (3) Closing the gap by providing students with an understanding of critical areas of Indigenous health programs in an Indigenous context.

What is the MPH Indigenous Health Collaboration?

The MPH Indigenous Health Collaboration is a partnership between the University of Melbourne and The University of Queensland that aims to offer a MPH program specialising in Indigenous health.

The Australian government Department of Health and Ageing and the Lowitja Institute have provided resources 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.

"I did a first-year subject called Indigenous Health and History which fuelled my desire to undertake an Indigenous Health MPH 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



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:

School of Public Health Student Services

P: +61 7 3365 5345
E: enquiries@sph.uq.edu.au
W: www.sph.uq.edu.au

Indigenous Health Specialisation Coordinator

Associate Professor Peter Hill
School of Public Health
P: +61 7 3365 5432
E: peter.hill@sph.uq.edu.au

The Indigenous Health Specialisation at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, the University of Melbourne

Core Units:

- > Foundations of Public Health
- > Epidemiology
- > Biostatistics
- > Surveys & Qualitative Methods
- > Public Health Leadership & Management

Indigenous Health Specialisation electives:

- > Indigenous Health and History
- > Indigenous Health: From Data to Practice
- > Indigenous Health Management and Leadership

Capstones:

- > Research Project: Indigenous Health
- > Professional Practice Unit

For more information, please refer to the University of Melbourne handbook: www.handbook.unimelb.edu.au

Contacts:

Academic Programs Office

P: +61 3 8344 9339
F: +61 3 8344 0824
E: sph-gradinfo@unimelb.edu.au
W: www.pgh.unimelb.edu.au

Indigenous Health Specialisation Coordinator

Ms Leanne Coombe, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit,
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
P: +61 3 8344 9375
E: lcoombe@unimelb.edu.au
W: www.onemda.unimelb.edu.au

