

School / Faculty: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE & RESEARCH

Course ID: WELRO2105

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): Nil

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): Nil

ASCED Code: 090515

Grading Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Recognise and assess the concept of evidence based practice as it is used in the health and welfare field.
- K2.** Identify different models of program evaluation and their links to evidence-based practice
- K3.** Become aware of the different models of research as they are used in the welfare field.
- K4.** Develop and increase students' awareness of the range of research strategies within the welfare field and when they are most appropriately utilised.
- K5.** Increase students' knowledge of the resources available to locate research findings for welfare practice.
- K6.** Increase knowledge of issues in a specific field of welfare practice
- K7.** Expand on knowledge of professional practice issues obtained in other courses.
- K8.** Develop knowledge in ethical considerations and their application in field based research

Skills:

- S1.** Access available evidence bases to research practice issues
- S2.** Locate and utilise a variety of sources to obtain research material which may be useful for practice.

Course Outline (Higher Education)

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- S3.** Critically evaluate the usefulness and validity of research data for welfare practice.
- S4.** Develop good time management and independent planning skills.
- S5.** Develop written and verbal communication skills.
- S6.** Develop the capacity to continue to utilise research based knowledge once in the field.
- S7.** Develop skills in responding appropriately to ethical issues in research and effective approaches in addressing ethical considerations in research

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Ability to identify current research literature from a range of diverse and reputable sources
- A2.** Capacity to summarise in own words key aspects of current research literature
- A3.** Capacity to integrate findings of individual peer-reviewed articles, and develop a logical synthesis of findings
- A4.** Ability to identify gaps in existing research, and to develop a proposal for independent research in an area of relevance to the welfare field
- A5.** Critically review a diverse range of research and evidence-based models which can be applied to real world settings

Course Content:

Content of this course will be a combination of a lectures on research methodology and the use of evidence based practice, and an exploration of the use of this method in relation to a topic of interest in a specialised field of practice by the student. This topic will be negotiated between the student and the course coordinator. The content will include information on research methods and strategies, ethical practice, planning and management techniques and specific content material related to the topic developed by the student.

Students will explore the use of relevant databases such as Medline, the Cochrane Library and the Campbell Collaboration, review the various debates relating to the value of different types of evidence and the implications of the evidence-based paradigm for varied professional groups and practice locations in the health and human services.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Value scholarly research as a means to create opportunities for professional development, and as a useful strategy to facilitate positive outcomes for clients/consumers and the community
- V2.** Explore the value debates inherent in the choice of different research methodologies
- V3.** Explore the ramifications of the professional code of practice within a research context.
- V4.** Identify value debates as they relate to the use of evidence based practice
- V5.** Explore specific ethical issues in a field of practice which may have been identified by research.
- V6.** Appreciation of the value of lifelong learning within a professional context.

Graduate Attributes:

graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Course Outline (Higher Education)

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Capacity to develop skills for evidence-based practice	High
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Ability to use own knowledge to access relevant research literature	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Capacity to engage with current research debates	Medium
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Capacity to ensure that practice is reflective of current best practice standards	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K5, K6, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1, A2, A3	Locate and critically evaluate literature on a specialized field of practice in Health and Welfare.	Annotated Bibliography and Research Critique	20 - 30%
K1, K4, K5, K6, K7, K8, S4, S5, S7, A4	Identify key issues for professional practice and research in a specialized field of practice chosen by the student.	Research outline and summary of intent and research report OR Research outline & summary of intent, Research Proposal and Ethics Application	research outline S/N, report or proposal 30-50%
K1, K2, K3, K4, K8, S7, A5	Indicate an understanding of diverse research and evidence-based models and well as evaluation approaches used in the welfare field.	Exam	20 - 30%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA