

Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Mental Health and Well-Being (GCIW) - GradCertIMHWB

	Distance education
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July)
Fees:	Commonwealth supported place Domestic full fee paying place
Standard duration:	1 year full-time, 3 years part-time maximum

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 269 500 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 5315 Email: studyarts@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285 Email: usq.support@usq.edu.au

Program focus

This program is designed for qualified health practitioners (e.g. general practitioners, nurses, psychologists, social workers, counsellors, psychotherapists) wanting to develop culturally appropriate mental health skills for the challenging and socially important work in Indigenous Mental Health. The program focuses on developing an understanding of Indigenous Australian social, health and mental health issues, with particular emphasis on culturally appropriate intervention strategies in assisting Indigenous mental health clients.

Program aims

The status of Indigenous Australians in both general health and in mental health and well-being is well documented. The program aims, firstly, to provide awareness of major mental health issues relating to Indigenous Australians, as identified in the landmark *Ways Forward National Consultancy Report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health* (1995) document, this being the first national analysis of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health. From this starting point the program aims to provide particularly, but not exclusively, non-Indigenous mental health clinical practitioners with appropriate formal instruction to enhance their skills and knowledge in interacting with, and treating, Indigenous Australians suffering from mental health problems and disorders. Special emphasis is placed on the development of knowledge and understanding of culturally appropriate intervention strategies in both clinical and community settings.

Program objectives

On completion of the program, graduates should be able to:

- demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australian cultures and communities
- demonstrate understanding of and distinguish between Indigenous and Western/Caucasian concepts of health; in particular be able to articulate the meaning and significance of the holistic view of health, espoused by Indigenous Australian peoples, in relation to mental health
- critically assess the prevalence of mental health disorders and problems in Indigenous Australian communities today
- understand, and demonstrate competence in the use of, culturally appropriate intervention strategies in assisting Indigenous mental health clients.

Admission requirements

To be considered for entry, applicants must normally be health practitioners who hold a degree, or equivalent, in a field relevant to health/mental health. This may include, for example, mental health, medicine, nursing, counselling, social science, psychology, behavioural science, suicide prevention. It is expected that students of this program will be clinical practitioners. A formal process of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be used to assess applicants who wish to gain entry to the program on the basis of equivalent experience or qualifications. Candidates who do not possess a Bachelor degree may apply to the Program Coordinator for consideration for admission on the basis of equivalent experience or qualifications.

How to apply

Domestic students

[Application for postgraduate programs](#) may be made directly to USQ.

Program fees

Commonwealth supported place

A Commonwealth supported place is where the Australian Government makes a contribution towards the cost of your higher education and you as a student pay a [student contribution amount](#), which varies depending on the courses undertaken. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#). Commonwealth Supported students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [HECS-HELP](#).

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who reside outside Australia pay full tuition fees.

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [FEE-HELP](#).

Program structure

The Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Mental Health and Well-Being contains four compulsory courses, one at level 3 and three at level 5 or higher, of one unit each.

Program completion requirements

To qualify for the award of Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Mental Health and Well-Being a candidate must normally complete the following four courses within three years of first admission to the program:

- [KNL3001 Indigenous Australian Cultures and Communities](#)
- [IMH5001 Philosophy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health](#)
- [IMH5002 Indigenous Australian Mental Health Today](#)
- [IMH5003 Culturally Appropriate Intervention Strategies in Indigenous Mental Health](#)*

* [IMH5001 Philosophy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health](#) is a pre-requisite for [IMH5003](#).

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 3 years to complete this program.

IT requirements

Students should visit the USQ [Recommended Hardware](#) and [Recommended Software](#) sites to check that their computers are capable of running the appropriate software and versions of Internet web browsers and to check the minimum and recommended standards for software.

Residential schools

There will be one compulsory [Residential School](#) of three days duration, to be held in conjunction with the teaching of [IMH5003 Culturally Appropriate Intervention Strategies in Indigenous Mental Health](#). This Residential School will be held on a weekend in the latter half of Semester 2.

Exemptions

Normally, there are no exemptions permitted in this program.

Recommended enrolment pattern - Part-time

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school (compulsory /optional)	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
KNL3001 Indigenous Australian Cultures and Communities			1	1				
IMH5001 Philosophy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health			1	1				
IMH5002 Indigenous Australian Mental Health Today			1	2				
IMH5003 Culturally Appropriate Intervention Strategies in Indigenous Mental Health			1	2			C	Pre-requisite: IMH5001