

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Education Scholarship 2025



Information and application form to attend the Nurses Certificate Theory course and supervised clinical attachment at SHQ

SHQ acknowledges the 'Close the Gap' campaign as an important step in working towards improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As a group, Indigenous Australians experience widespread disadvantage and health inequality.

To achieve health equality in Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be able to access:

- ▶ Quality health care in the location of choice
- ▶ A health care system which is culturally safe and which responds to health needs
- ▶ Healthy Housing

SHQ recognises that to achieve health equality more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are needed in the health work force. To work towards this SHQ would like to offer a scholarship to one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctor and one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurse to participate in one of our Certificate Programs per year.

SHQ will cover the full cost of the course, however other costs such as travel, accommodation and meals etc. whilst on the course will need to be met by the participant.

This scholarship is only available to Nurses that work in WA, priority will be given to those doctors and nurses who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and who have a strong interest in sexual and reproductive health.

If you are interested in applying for this year's scholarship, please complete the application below along with your CV and submit to the clinical education coordinator at clinic.ed@shq.org.au or fax to 08 9227 6871.

I identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Name: _____

Gender: _____ Pronouns: _____

Mobile No: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Workplace including address: _____

Your current role: _____

Briefly describe the nature of your present work: _____

What are your reasons for wanting to do this course? _____

How might your work, or the way you carry out your work change as a result of completing this course: _____

Outline the reasons why you should be chosen as the recipient of this scholarship. _____

Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Nursing)

Course Summary

The course has a theory component and a clinical practicum. The theory modules provide nurses with evidence based information on a broad range of sexual and reproductive health topics. Nurses will explore the physiological, psychosocial and environmental aspects of sexual and reproductive health using current research findings, clinical guidelines and the knowledge and experience of experts in the field.

Nurses who receive a Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health will have completed:

- Seven theoretical modules
- Written assessments
- Clinical practice placement

Who would benefit?

This nationally recognised course is for registered nurses and midwives wishing to develop detailed knowledge and specialist clinical skills in sexual and reproductive health.

Entry requirements

At least one-year post-registration experience is necessary for all nurses and midwives enrolling in the course. Evidence of current registration is required as part of the enrolment process. Previous experience in the area of women's health, sexual and reproductive health or community health is an advantage but not a requirement. Recognition of prior learning is available to nurses who seek credits for previous study and/or existing skills (fees apply).

Course Outcomes

SHQ Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Nursing)

Nurses who wish to receive the full certificate (Nursing) must complete all of the seven theoretical modules (some of which are online) and all of the required clinical practicum (see clinical practicum details below).

This includes course attendance, completion of assessments and completion of clinical placements.

Course structure

SHQ uses a wide range of educational strategies to accommodate for the differing learning styles of course participants. Information is delivered via lectures, presentations, workshops, group work and interactive activities.

Nurses can complete the theoretical modules as a block over two weeks or as separate modules. Nurses must complete all theory and practical within a two-year period.

Assessment

All of the theoretical modules are assessable. Nurses are given time (6 weeks) to submit assignments.

Nurses are not eligible to complete the clinical practicum until all relevant assessments have been received by the Nurse Educator. Recognition of prior learning is available to nurses who seek credit for prior study and or existing skills. (Fees apply).

Before you start

Some of the modules have pre course readings and or activities. **These are compulsory and make up the assessment for each module.**

Module 1. Bare Essentials (Online work and 1 day face to face)

Join us at SHQ, expand your mind, be challenged and leave with a desire to learn more.

The perfect launch pad for those nurses wishing to build further skills in sexual and reproductive health education and or clinical practice.

Nurses will explore and develop their personal knowledge on a range of fundamental and "of the moment" sexual and reproductive health topics.

For example:

- Concepts of sexuality and sexual health
- Values attitudes and beliefs
- Language of sex, sex and diversity
- Sexuality through the lifespan.
- Sex and gender, sex and the law
- Sex and the impact of technology

Module 2. Cervical Screening Theory (Online work and 2 days face to face)

This module meets the national Standards for Cervical Screening providers and is endorsed by ACN.

Nurses will become competent to provide cervical screening and preventative health checks to eligible women on behalf of a supporting Doctor.

Topics include:

- Cervical screening
- Pelvic floor and continence
- Common gynaecological issues
- Taking a well women's sexual health history
- Menopause
- Breast health

This module meets the national Standards for Cervical Screening providers.

Module 3. STIs in WA Primary Care (online)

A comprehensive online module which includes:

- Information about common STI's and BBV's
- Taking a comprehensive sexual history
- Ordering the correct tests
- Treatment protocols
- Managing results and follow up.
- Contact tracing and partner notification.

Online – Assessment due 12 weeks after registration

Module 4. People and Sex (online)

Examine men and women's sexual function and dysfunction, explore management options and identify appropriate resources and referral agencies

Online – Assessment due 12 weeks after registration

Module 5. Andrology Matters (online)

A short and sweet online module which includes:

- How to engage and work with men in sexual health
- Male anatomy & physiology
- Common male sexual and reproductive health issues
- PSA screening, "the bottom line"
- Hot topics for men

Online – Assessment due 12 weeks after registration

Module 6 & 7 Contraception & Communication (face to face)

Don't miss a five hour contraception workshop. A must have for nurses and midwives if you wish to progress to insertion of IUDs or contraceptive implants and working in primary care.

Motivational interviewing is a technique that can be learned by anyone. It is a method that works on facilitating and engaging intrinsic motivation within the client in order to change behavior. Learn how to apply this to the sensitive area of sexual and reproductive health.

Clinical Practicum for Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Note: All assignments due must be submitted before commencing clinical practicum.

The clinical part for the Certificate course requires approximately 50 hours of clinical training which includes two visits to external agencies. The supervised clinical attachment usually takes two weeks to complete when done in a block. Participants are supervised at all times by experienced SHQ Registered Nurses who have been trained in clinical instruction. This can be achieved by:

- 12 x 3.5 hour clinics at SHQ or
- A combination of clinics at SHQ and experience in participants own work place.

Discuss your practicum requirements with Manager of Clinical Education.

Participants develop beginning specialist clinical skills in sexual and reproductive health nursing practice, including cervical screening. The program can be negotiated to take into account the existing skills of the participant. Details on booking the practicum will be discussed during the theory component of the course.

Placements are limited - bookings need to be made early (at least six to eight weeks beforehand) with: Clinical Education Coordinator. Email clinic.ed@shq.org.au

Contact & Registration

**Clinical Education Coordinator | Ph: 08 9227 6177
Email clinic.ed@shq.org.au**

**Karen Bonte, Nurse Educator
Email karen.bonte@shq.org.au**

SHQ (Sexual Health Quarters)

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