The University of Melbourne is among the oldest and largest universities in Australia. It is a research intensive, comprehensive institution with a strong postgraduate commitment. It aims to be one of the finest universities in the world - a proud institution of higher learning producing graduates, scholarships and research that matters to the nation and beyond.

Background to the Program

The Graduate Certificate commenced as part of a Victorian project in 2002 to train a cohort of fifteen new transfusion nurses. The course drew on the knowledge and skills of currently practising experts who could provide an authoritative breadth of content that was appropriate for this new role.

The development of the course was led by Professor Sanchia Aranda, Principal Research Fellow of Nursing Research and Supported Care at Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and overseen by a planning group made up of academic, medical, nursing and quality improvement professionals, most of whom worked in hospitals or other health organisations such as the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

In 2009, national funding was provided by the National Blood Authority (NBA) on behalf of all Australian Governments to support the re-development of the course. The NBA is an Australian Government statutory agency, established under the National Blood Authority Act 2003 to improve and enhance the management of the Australian blood and plasma product sector at a national level. www.nba.gov.au/index.html

In 2010, a national review was undertaken and the course now includes authors and content reviewers from Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory and New South Wales. The Victorian Blood Matters Program Advisory Committee has oversight of the course to ensure that the content remains relevant to the transfusion improvement practitioner role. Further details on the Blood Matters Program are available at www.health.vic.gov.au/bloodmatters.

More Information

For all course enquiries please contact:
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For additional course information please visit our website:
www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/transfusionpractice/
The Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice provides students with the skills and opportunities to extend their knowledge in an area of Specialty Transfusion Practice. It aims to improve transfusion safety and appropriate use of blood and blood products within hospitals and laboratories. The foundation of the work is the translation of national best practice guidelines into everyday transfusion practice and patient blood management. It is offered as a four subject online course, facilitated by an experienced online Nurse Educator.

This course is auspiced and endorsed by the Blood Matters Program of the Department of Health Victoria and the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. This is the only Graduate Certificate online blood transfusion course in the southern hemisphere.

Entry Requirements
An undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in medicine, nursing, science and any health profession which is recognised by the University as evidence of adequate preparation for the course or documented evidence of at least five years full time relevant professional work experience in a medical, scientific or allied health environment.

Potential students will need the support of their employer to enable them to successfully complete specialty clinical competencies.

Working knowledge and access to a computer is required.

Course Objectives
The course aims to be the industry standard for health professionals and aims to achieve best practice in hospital and laboratory transfusion practice across the health services.

The course draws on a wide range of knowledge from experts in their fields, from institutions across Australia. The focus of the course is broad, encompassing international trends in clinical practice, governance and risk management. This overarching framework aims to develop the capacity to initiate and accommodate change within the specialty area of transfusion medicine.

Program Structure
To satisfy the requirements of the Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice, students need to complete four 12.5 credit point subjects within a 12-month period.

• Fundamentals in Transfusion Practice (12.5 points)
• Quality in Transfusion Practice (12.5 points)
• Transfusion Practice - Advanced Concepts (12.5 points)
• Transfusion Specialty Practice (12.6 points)

The Transfusion Specialty Practice subject is delivered online through the use of a clinical practice portfolio.

Please note: Subjects may be able to be used as credit points towards other courses - subject to approval from Course Administrators.

Subject 1 FUNDAMENTALS IN TRANSFUSION PRACTICE
This subject is an introduction to the fundamentals of transfusion practice. It begins with an overview of the history that has shaped transfusion medicine into current practices.

The subject also reviews basic blood haematology, pathophysiology of diseases that affect blood and blood components, investigation and treatment and the process of transfusion from vein to vein and includes, discussions regarding the future of transfusion practice.

Subject 2 QUALITY IN TRANSFUSION PRACTICE
This subject covers a broad range of quality topics associated with transfusion medicine, including systems, principles and issues, as well as addressing national guidelines and standards.

The purpose of this subject is to provide the student with an understanding of quality policies and the clinical management issues relating to blood and blood products from collection to post transfusion management.

Subject 3 ADVANCED CONCEPTS IN TRANSFUSION PRACTICE
This subject builds on the information discussed in the fundamentals subject to provide the student with more advanced knowledge. For example, the types, investigations and management of transfusion transmitted infections, clinical practice guidelines and transfusion in specialised settings. It also focuses on clinical practice guidelines for the utilisation of fresh blood products.

Subject 4 TRANSFUSION SPECIALTY PRACTICE
The purpose of the clinical subject is to build upon the theoretical concepts already learnt and offers the opportunity to apply this knowledge in the student’s specific clinical setting.

This subject is offered as a professional practice portfolio and involves the completion of clinical hurdles which may range from developing patient education information on blood transfusion, and the administration of a blood product (competencies for nursing participants) through to an auditing and academic detailing activity on various aspects related to transfusion practice.

Assessment
Each subject is formally assessed to meet the requirements of university accreditation. Assessment is designed to be practical and clinically relevant for healthcare professionals.

Fees
Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice – $8,640.00

FEE-HELP is a loan given to eligible fee paying students to help pay part or all of their tuition fees. Visit the Government’s website for more information.

www.gongtou.gov.au/Main/Resources/PublicationsAndLinks/Forms/Publications.htm

Scholarships
Applicants may be eligible for a Department of Health Victoria scholarship. The scholarship is available to Victorians only and is provided to encourage individuals interested in taking up a transfusion improvement role in the Victorian health system.

Further information on the scholarship application process is available from the Blood Matters Program website.

Contact details are available at the Blood Matters Program website.

Further Course Information

Student Testimonials from Nurses and Scientists

“I completed this course from Canada and there were no challenges to doing this. I would strongly encourage others in Canada to follow in my footsteps. I have worked in Canada and Ireland and I was able to apply all my previous experience.”

“I really liked the subject, liked reading the other posts and ideas and felt with the help and guidance of the online facilitator, made this a very valuable learning experience.”

“The weekly forums are a good way of working.”

“Must admit! I have been blown away by my results and also by how much I have learnt - who would have thought there was so much to learn about blood.”

“This course challenged me. Despite having a few years experience in this area, I can attest that the course is intellectually stimulating.”

On line Facilitator

Judy Forsyth
Clinical Nurse Educator
transfusion.practice@mcnp.unimelb.edu.au

The online facilitator is an experienced educator who provides answers to questions from students, monitors progress on discussion threads between the students, coordinates assessment of student assignments and acts as a communication liaison between the educational institution and students for implementation of policy and application of student feedback.