Career options: Health Promotion

With an underlying philosophy that prevention is better than cure, the program focuses on the systems and practices that shape the health of nations, communities and individuals, in facing issues such as globalisation, technology, environmental degradation and population trends.

As a graduate of this program, you will possess the knowledge and skills to plan and implement health improvement programs and media communication strategies. Through undertaking your practicum, you will have gained first-hand experience as a health promotion practitioner in a real workplace environment.

You will be distinctive in that your orientation will be towards an ecological approach to Health Promotion, widely recognised as the future of Health Promotion practice. The program of study incorporates the emerging ecological approach to Health Promotion and contemporary approaches to the theory and practice of Health Promotion. Accordingly, you will be able to operate effectively within the contemporary Health Promotion frameworks of practice while challenging these approaches and practices to move toward the ecological approach required to secure population health in the future.

Health Promotion professionals work in a variety of positions protecting and promoting the health and well-being of the community and specific populations across the settings in a range of areas such as workplace health, environmental health, community development, nutrition, oral health, health and safety, physical activity, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Positions that graduates could fill include Health Promotion Officer, Project Manager, Public Health Officer, Policy Officer, Community Health Worker, Health Coordinator, Community Development Worker, Program Evaluator and other similar roles.

Health Promotion graduates generally work in federal, state and local government, health foundations, international health agencies, hospitals, universities & health research institutes.

In addition to knowledge and skills directly related to your program of study, you will also develop a range of other skills (e.g. teamwork, analytical, communication) through academic study, employment, voluntary work, sporting activities and life experience. Recognising the value employers place on these skills is an important factor in your graduate job search.

Positions and employers

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, Graduate Opportunities, lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You might be surprised by the range of employers recruiting from your degree and the sectors of the workplace where you might establish a career.

Examples of graduate positions and employers include:

Promotional model Promotional Models Australia
Graduate coordinator (nursing) Ramsay Health - John Flynn Hospital
Personal Trainer The Sanctuary
Team Leader, Child Development Queensland Health Service, Townsville
Vacancies on-line

- Australian Public Service recruitment
- Byron Employment health care vacancies
- Careerone healthcare, medical & pharmaceutical jobs
- Graduate Opportunities (the major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia)
- Health & Community Jobs (HACjobs)
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association vacancy listings
- Mycareer
- New South Wales Government jobs
- Pharmaceutical Jobs (healthcare, medical, scientific and pharmaceutical vacancies)
- Queensland Health vacancies
- Recruitment consultants in Australia (Searchable by industry sector)
- Research Jobs (vacancies in Australia & New Zealand)
- Seek Campus (A major Australian graduate recruitment agency)
- Unijobs (Vacancies of all types in Australian universities)
- Unigrad (specialist Australian graduate recruiter)
- Careerjet employment search engine

International

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<td>United States</td>
<td>Quintessential Careers</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>United Nations Headquarters graduate internships</td>
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Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and qualifications) and an employer’s needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these ‘hidden’ opportunities.
• Aged care facilities in Australia
• Australian Government departments
• Australian Pharmacies directory
• Community service providers in Australia (Lifeline's comprehensive directory of community service providers across a wide range of sectors)
• Drug and alcohol services in Australia
• Federal and state health departments & agencies in Australia
• Health and fitness centres in Australia
• Health and welfare organisations and associations in Australia
• Health insurance funds in Australia
• International health organisations
• Local Governments in Australia
• Not for Profit organizations in Australia
• Public hospitals in Australia
• Queensland Government Departments
• Recruitment Consultants in Australia
• Child & youth support agencies in South East Queensland

**Employment prospects and starting salaries**

Grad Jobs and Dollars provides information on employment rates and median starting salaries by field of study, for Australian university graduates surveyed four months after graduation. Information on occupations Australia-wide, such as the size of the workforce, employment prospects and average weekly earnings is available from JobOutlook.

**Professional associations**

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet people in your field, who can assist you to explore your career options and potentially find employment opportunities. These associations exist in every field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events. Students are welcome to join, and membership can cost as little as $60 per year.

• Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
• Australian Health Promotion Association
• Dietitians Association of Australia
• International Union of Health Promotion and Education
• Nutrition Society of Australia
• Public Health Association of Australia

**Other career-related links for Health Promotion students**

• Pathways to careers in health
• Careers in health information management
• Graduate Entry Medicine and Dentistry Admissions Test (GAMSAT)
Sample job advertisements

The Department of Health and Ageing, Federal government: We’re big. We’re exciting. The federal Department of Health and Ageing offers more variety than almost any other area of government. We’re a big ideas department, and health is one of the most exciting areas you could work in. We develop policies and implement government programs that touch every Australian. With us you can genuinely help make a difference to people’s quality of life.

Why would you join us?
Because we’re interesting. Because you’d be involved in heaps of different stuff. Because we’d pay you! But – bottom line – because you’d actually be making a difference to people’s lives. To the country. To society. We’re about real people. Real work. Real challenges. If you’re interested in and passionate about topical issues such as obesity and nutrition, recreational drug use, infectious disease control, health monitoring, pharmaceuticals, Indigenous health, the effects of alcohol and tobacco, the operation of government-funded aged care centres, or how to handle Australia’s changing demography then we have a role for you.

What we offer graduates
In the Graduate Development Program you’ll have a direct, everyday impact on the community – this could be through working on HIV/AIDS, Obesity, Illicit Drugs Initiative, Cancer Screening, Immunisation, Pharmaceuticals, Aged Care and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The sort of stuff that people talk about, you’d actually be working on. These are the issues that keep our Department at the forefront of Government activity.

We’ll fast track you and teach you how government works, including administrative tasks, and work as part of a team. Our program will ensure that you develop great skills, knowledge and networks.

Seeking...
Smart people. People who aren’t afraid of a challenge. People who are prepared for issues that can be difficult. Yes, difficult! But also rewarding. You would need to be able to do several things at once. You should be a good communicator, but also have the intellectual capacity to tackle complex but fascinating subjects. You don’t need a degree in a related subject, but you should have a genuine interest in health-related areas.

If you think this could be you, then contact us here to make your mark.

Degrees/disciplines
All disciplines welcomed

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is currently seeking the services of an enthusiastic person to join the Improved Primary Health Care Initiative (IPHCI). In this exciting and challenging position you will be responsible for working collaboratively with remote Indigenous communities of Cape York Peninsula to plan, implement and evaluate health promotion programs that target chronic disease and increase the capacity of people living in remote communities to improve their own health and quality of life.

To be eligible for the position, applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:
* qualification in health promotion, public health or primary health care;
* sound knowledge of current health promotion practice and theory;
* demonstrated experience of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and in a cross cultural multidisciplinary team.
Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) is the State peak body representing the issues and concerns of ethnic communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis & Sexual Health Program at ECCQ is funded by Queensland Health to ensure that CALD people are not disadvantaged in accessing health information and in their awareness of health risk behaviours related to HIV, hepatitis & sexually transmissible infections (STIs).

The council is seeking a Multicultural Youth Health Promotion Officer. The position is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating sexual health program for young people from CALD backgrounds, including international students. Some key duties include:

* Develop, implement and evaluate health education and promotion activities for CALD youth.
* Develop, implement and evaluate training for service providers on cultural issues relating to sexual health and CALD youth.
* Develop culturally appropriate resources for CALD youth.
* Distribute resources to CALD youth.
* Contribute to other resource development.
* Co-supervise and manage training for volunteers.
* Contribute to the development of strategy and policy for the Program
* Liaise with key stakeholders.

The successful applicant will enjoy a busy small team and work independently and must have good cross cultural communication, presentation, multitask and computer skills, as well as sound knowledge of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis & STIs. The person we are looking for will have a strong interest in working with CALD young people. A full driver’s licence and own car are necessary.

Experience in areas such as youth, especially CALD youth, education, public health, nursing will be highly regarded.

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**JP Smith Recruitment & Human Resources** - If you are looking for a community minded role in the Not-for-Profit sector then this is the role for you! Our client provides a professional service engaging with the community, as well as the health and allied health community, to assist in health reform through General Practice.

Their energetic team manages a diverse health portfolio and seeks a self-starter for their Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Program.

**Your key responsibilities include:**

- Rolling out education and awareness programs to the community such as schools, sporting organisations and indigenous groups;
- Developing relationships between ATOD Prevention Coordinators across Queensland;
- Analysing and managing the deliverables of the program;
- Reporting deliverables at key junctions within the project; and
- Working with community groups as well as the medical and allied health fraternity to identify methods of prevention.

Degree qualifications are essential in the area of Health Promotion or Public Health. You will also possess research skills to analyse the program, understand the legislation and have the networking ability to engage others in an arena that will assist and benefit all parties. In return, you will work within a stimulating environment with fellow professionals and a competitive salary will be on offer. If you have a passion for program coordination, engaging people and influencing change in our community, then we are keen to hear from you.

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Careers and Employment Service, Griffith University