

AQF LEVEL	AQF LEVEL 8 CRITERIA – GRADUATE DIPLOMA		PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PURPOSE	The Graduate Diploma qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional/highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning.		
KNOWLEDGE	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will have advanced knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area	Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Practice will have specialised knowledge in the field of mental health including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contemporary mental health theories and models of mental health care including consumer and carer lived experience • evidence related to prevalence, patterns, interactions, risks and outcomes for people experiencing complex mental health and comorbid conditions • current mental health policy and service models and the impact of these on the lives of people with mental illness • research methods relevant to research and evaluation in health and community settings and to critique current research findings. 	
SKILLS	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems • cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas • specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice • communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts 	Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Practice will have the cognitive, technical, creative and communication skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognitive and technical skills to analyse frameworks and theories from a variety of perspectives to inform and consolidate and synthesis this knowledge to inform mental health practice and improve outcomes for consumers • cognitive and creative skills to critically analyse mental health systems and service models to develop effective responses to meet the needs of consumers with complex mental health issues • cognitive and technical skills to access, evaluate and utilise evidence based literature to conceptualise issues and inform mental health practice decisions • communication skills to transfer complex ideas and identify creative solutions within interprofessional contexts with advanced interpersonal and written skills. 	

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences 	
<p>Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts • to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts • with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters 	<p>Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Practice demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with initiative and creativity apply theoretical knowledge in professional practice situations to improve and enhance consumer outcomes • with responsibility and accountability apply a range of assessments to identify consumer needs and develop effective and evidence based intervention strategies to achieve optimum outcomes for mental health consumers with complex needs • to initiate, plan and execute a review of relevant literature and documentation in response to a mental health practice-related issue • to use self-reflection to support ethical and accountable professional practice • to collaborate effectively with consumers, carers and other professionals to provide current and evidence based mental health support and intervention in complex situations.