

## Background to the Program

The Graduate Certificate course 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, Director of Nursing 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 2010 a national review was undertaken and now includes authors and content reviewers from health organisations in Victoria and interstate professionals and experts from South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory and New South Wales. Authors and content reviewers included professionals from health organisations in Victoria such as The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, The Alfred Hospital, The Royal Children's Hospital, The Royal Women's Hospital and Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

The Victorian Blood Matters Program Advisory Committee has oversight of the course to ensure that 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](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bloodmatters).



Melbourne Consulting  
& Custom Programs

## Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice

## More Information

### About the University of Melbourne

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.

### About Melbourne Consulting and Custom Programs

Melbourne Consulting and Custom Programs is part of the Commercialisation group of the University of Melbourne. Its role is to develop and deliver demand driven consulting services and custom award and non award education programs. Academic capacity for this particular program is provided by the School of Nursing.

### About the course, general enquiries and applications contact:

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### For further information please go to our website

[www.mccp.unimelb.edu.au/courses/award-courses/graduatecertificate/graduate\\_certificate\\_in\\_transfusion\\_practice](http://www.mccp.unimelb.edu.au/courses/award-courses/graduatecertificate/graduate_certificate_in_transfusion_practice)

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### DISCLAIMER

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate. Changes may be made to such things as course content and presenters. Students will be advised of changes as soon as practicable.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE



# Accredited Course Information

**The Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice provides the student with the skills and the opportunity to extend their knowledge in an area of Specialty Transfusion Practice. It aims to improve transfusion safety and appropriateness of use of blood and blood products within hospitals. The foundation of the work is the translation of national best practice guidelines into everyday transfusion practice. 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: better, safer transfusion 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.**

**National funding to support the re-development of the course was provided by the National Blood Authority (NBA) on behalf of all Australian Governments. 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](http://www.nba.gov.au/index.html)



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

An undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in medicine, nursing or an allied health profession which is recognised by the University as evidence of adequate preparation for the course or documented evidence of at least five year's 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.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

The course draws on a range of expertise from experts in their fields from institutions around 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 (12.5 points)

The course is delivered via a web-enabled online learning system. The Transfusion Specialty Practice subject is delivered through the use of a clinical practice portfolio.

## 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.

## SUBJECT 2

### QUALITY IN TRANSFUSION PRACTICE

This subject covers a broad range of quality topics associated with transfusion medicine including systems, principles and issues.

The purpose of this subject is to provide the student with an understanding of quality policies and the clinical risk 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.

### BLOOD MATTERS

Blood and blood products are an important part of care delivered in hospitals. The Blood Matters: better, safer transfusion program aims to improve transfusion safety and appropriate use of blood products within hospitals.

The collaborative program is managed by the Department of Health Victoria and the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.



# Further Course Information

## 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 – \$8,240.00

**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.goingtouni.gov.au/Main/Resources/PublicationsAndLinks/FormsPublications.htm](http://www.goingtouni.gov.au/Main/Resources/PublicationsAndLinks/FormsPublications.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 public health system. The scholarship provides 75 percent of the course fees (GST exempt).

Further information on the scholarship application process is available from the Blood Matters program secretariat. Contact details are available at the Blood Matters Program website

[www.health.vic.gov.au/bloodmatters](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bloodmatters)

## ACADEMIC TEAM

### Karen Nightingale

Deputy Associate Head - Teaching & Learning  
Coordinator MNSc & BNSc (Entry-to-Practice Programs)  
Senior Lecturer  
The School of Nursing and Social Work  
University of Melbourne  
School of Nursing

## ON LINE FACILITATOR

### Judy Forsyth

Clinical Nurse Educator  
[transfusion.practice@mccp.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:transfusion.practice@mccp.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.

## Student Testimonials

*" This is an area of nursing that I have had very little experience in. It was a real learning experience. I enjoyed the challenge"*

*" The quality subject was very interesting. It has complimented my role as a nurse manager and given me greater understanding of safety and quality and organisational responsibilities"*

*" The weekly forums are a good way of working.."*

*" The online facilitator was fantastic; always available to answer questions and provide support, always seemed to get back quickly. I really liked the feedback and advice and the prompts for more information were good too."*

*" 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."*

*" I really enjoyed this unit (Fundamentals in Transfusion Practice). I learnt heaps. Thank you."*

