

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Master of Adolescent Health and Welfare

1 Background

This proposal recommends the introduction of a Master of Adolescent Health and Welfare. It represents an extension of the current Graduate Certificate/ Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health & Welfare as an added exit point available to students throughout the two year full-time program. Whilst the course content and structure of the Graduate Certificate/Diploma will not change, the subjects introduced into the Masters program will be at level 5 to reflect a higher academic level. The aim is to build multiple pathways from the Graduate Certificate through to the Masters, catering for the diversity of students typically represented in this unique cohort.

The Master of Adolescent Health and Welfare is designed as a coursework program with core, selective and elective subjects and a minor research thesis. The program requires students to successfully complete a further 100 credit points of study, in addition to our current Graduate Diploma course. The 100 credit points comprise of one selective subject and four electives and the introduction of one new subject, the Adolescent Health Minor Thesis. Students will be required to undertake an approved research design subject (selective) in their second year and select electives from other post graduate courses available at the University, most suitably from the School of Population Health. The selective, group 1 and group 2 electives are all approved subjects currently available at the University of Melbourne. Refer to attachments 1 and 2 for detailed schema describing the proposed course structure.

The Centre for Adolescent Health is recognised both nationally and internationally, as a leader in adolescent health research and practice across clinical and forensic, community and education settings. Adolescent health itself is recognized as an important and expanding field of specialization, with a growing need for the development of the frameworks, understandings and skills required to work more effectively with young people. Alongside this is an awareness of the responsibility of the government to adapt policies reflective of this new knowledge within the health, education and youth sectors. The current Graduate Diploma/Certificate in Adolescent Health and Welfare is the only program of its kind in Australia and the Asia -Pacific region. The course offers a unique focus on multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral approaches to professional learning aimed at enhancing the health and wellbeing of adolescents. Demand for the course is increasing (both locally and internationally), it is one of the largest postgraduate coursework programs in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Currently, there are 50 students enrolled in the program with an annual intake of approximately 30 students. The cross-disciplinary/sectoral approaches that underpin the courses provide an attractive and inclusive professional development and career pathway for practitioners working in diverse disciplines and in a range of settings. As more people embrace the notion of lifelong learning, we anticipate this source of students will steadily grow. Course participants include teachers, student welfare coordinators, youth workers, social workers, police, general medical practitioners, nurses and parents.

2 Course/Program Objectives**Generic Objectives:**

The Graduate Certificate/Diploma in Adolescent Health & Welfare is designed to enable students to:

- further develop and apply critically reflective, evidence informed approaches to adolescent health and welfare practice, program development and policy analysis;
- analyse and critically evaluate contemporary theories of adolescence and adolescent development (including historical and cultural contexts), to enhance own practice in working with young people, families, communities and agencies;

- identify national and international adolescent health issues and trends and relate these to the broader socio-environmental contexts impacting on the health and wellbeing of young people;
- identify the principles associated with ‘micro’ and ‘macro’ approaches to practice and use these to develop enhanced prevention and intervention strategies when working with young people, families, communities and agencies;
- analyse, evaluate and apply ecological models of resiliency, risk and protection in adolescent health;
- engage young people, families and other professionals in the development and implementation of strategies to promote adolescent health and wellbeing.

Course Objectives specific to the Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare

- In addition to the objectives outlined above, it is expected that graduates will be able to:
- demonstrate a commitment to critical enquiry and evidence-based practice so as to maintain currency with contemporary debates and continuously inform practice;
- analyse and reflect on national and international adolescent health issues and trends as they relate to particular communities and professional practice settings;
- further develop and apply principles associated with ‘micro’ and ‘macro’ approaches to practice in adolescent health and welfare;
- plan, implement and evaluate effective prevention, early intervention and intervention strategies relevant to work with young people.

Course Objectives specific to the Master of Adolescent Health & Welfare

In addition to the objectives outlined above, the Master of Adolescent Health and Welfare is designed to enable students to:

- Further develop and apply holistic, evidence-informed approaches to practice with young people in a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary context;
- Develop the ability to design and undertake advanced research at a postgraduate level
- Prepare an adolescent health minor thesis that contributes to our understanding of young people’s health and well being.

3 Entry Requirements

Approved by Council at meeting 9/07 (10 September).

4 Course/Program Structure

As outlined in Attachments 1 and 2

5 Availability of Course

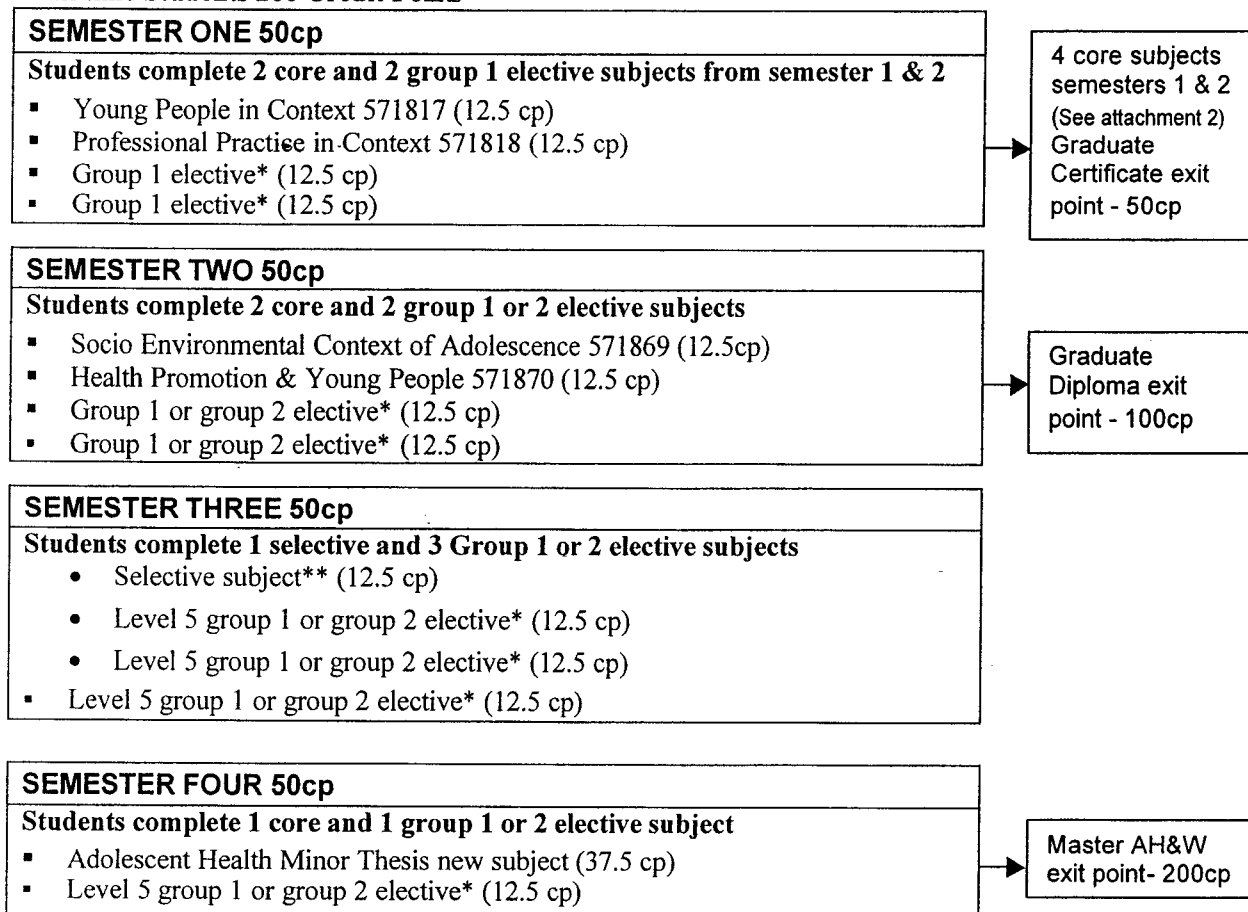
The Course will be available full-time and part-time to CSP students and to Australian and overseas fee-paying students from 2008.

Attachment 1

Proposed Course Structure and Sequence

MASTER OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELFARE COURSE

Full time Students 200 Credit Points



****Selective subjects**

<p>Students complete 1 of 3 selective subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Principles in Research Design 505921 (12.5 cp) ▪ Health Program Evaluation 1 505509 (12.5 cp) ▪ Epidemiology & Analytical Methods 1 505969 (12.5 cp)
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*** Electives**

<p>Group 1 electives (level 4/5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People at Risk 571820 (12.5 cp) • Drug Issues 571831 (12.5 cp) • Mental Health and Young People 571819 (12.5cp) • International Adolescent Health 505901 (12.5cp) • Adolescent Sexuality and Sexual Health 571821 (12.5 cp) • Adolescent Health Project 571827 (12.5 cp) • Research Project Development 505948 (12.5 cp) 	<p>Group 2 electives (level 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Adolescent Health 505901 (12.5cp) • Adolescent Sexuality & Sexual Health 571821 (12.5cp) • Research Methods in Social Health 505922 (12.5 cp) • Health Program Evaluation 2 505904 (12.5 cp) • Epidemiology & Analytical Methods 2 505670 (12.5 cp) • Promoting Mental Health 505915 (12.5 cp) • Drugs in Society 505955 (12.5 cp) • Australian Health Systems 505548 (12.5 cp)
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Attachment 2

Summary of "stackable award" for MASTER OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELFARE COURSE

Current Graduate Certificate of Adolescent Health & Welfare - Course Structure
<p>Students complete four core subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Young People in Context (12.5 cp)▪ Professional Practice in Context (12.5 cp)▪ Socio-Environmental Contexts of Adolescence (12.5 cp)▪ Health Promotion and Young People (12.5cp) <p>Course Total: 50 credit points</p>
Current Graduate Diploma of Adolescent Health & Welfare - Course Structure
<p>Students complete four core subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Young People in Context (12.5 cp)▪ Professional Practice in Context (12.5 cp)▪ Socio-Environmental Contexts of Adolescence (12.5 cp)▪ Health Promotion and Young People (12.5cp) <p>Total: 50 credit points AND</p> <p>Four elective subjects totalling 50 credit points from following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Young People at Risk (12.5 cp)▪ Drug Issues (12.5 cp)▪ Mental Health and Young People (12.5cp)▪ Adolescent Health Project (12.5cp)▪ Adolescent Sexuality and Sexual Health (12.5 cp)▪ International Adolescent Health (12.5cp) <p>Course Total: 100 credit points</p>
Proposed Master of Adolescent Health & Welfare - Course Structure
<p>Students complete five core subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Young People in Context 571817 (12.5 cp)▪ Professional Practice in Context 571818 (12.5 cp)▪ Socio-Environmental Contexts of Adolescence 571869 (12.5 cp)▪ Health Promotion and Young People 571870 (12.5cp)▪ Adolescent Health Minor Thesis new subject (37.5 cp) <p>Total: 87.5 credit points</p> <p>Students choose 1 of 3 selective subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Principles in Research Design 505921 (12.5 cp)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Program Evaluation 1 505509 (12.5 cp)• Epidemiology & Analytical Methods 1 505969 (12.5 cp) <p>Total: 12.5 credit points</p> <p>A total of 8 elective subjects totalling 100 credit points from the following options:</p> <p>Group 1 elective subjects (level 4/5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young People at Risk 571820 (12.5 cp)• Drug Issues 571831 (12.5 cp)• Mental Health and Young People 571819 (12.5cp)• International Adolescent Health 505901 (12.5cp) level 5• Adolescent Sexuality and Sexual Health 571821 (12.5cp) level 4 & 5• Adolescent Health Project 571827 (12.5cp) Level 4• Research Project Development 505948 (12.5cp) level 5 <p>Group 2 elective subjects (level 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Methods in Social Health 505922 (12.5 cp)• Health Program Evaluation 2 505904 (12.5 cp)• Epidemiology & Analytical Methods 2 505670 (12.5 cp)• Promoting Mental Health 505915 (12.5 cp)• Drugs in Society 505955 (12.5 cp)• Australian Health Systems 505548 (12.5 cp)• International Adolescent Health 505901 (12.5cp) level 5• Adolescent Sexuality and Sexual Health 571821 (12.5 cp) level 4 & 5 <p>Total 100 credit points</p> <p>Progressive Total: 200 credit points</p>