EXTENDING CARE
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
"We are proud of RMIT’s ongoing contribution to the wellbeing and sustainability of the communities we live in."

— PROFESSOR MARGARET GARDNER AO
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT
It is with pleasure that I present this overview of RMIT University’s capability in health and community services.

The University’s commitment to collaboration and to research that benefits the communities we live in, is truly evident in this publication. It highlights projects across health, medical science, biotechnology and the social sciences, reflecting the social, professional and community connectedness of RMIT.

Our research expertise is drawn from and integrally linked to the University’s long standing provision of education for a range of health, medical science and social science professions.

RMIT’s expertise strengthens the capacity of the health and community services sector to meet the ever-increasing challenges facing today’s society. Whilst the value of our research is clearly apparent, our academic staff also make significant ongoing contribution through positions on professional associations, advisory bodies and not-for-profit organisations, in policy development and advice to government, and in roles in community organisations.

Students benefit from RMIT’s unique approach to applied research and work-relevant learning. Through our extensive field and clinical placement programs and projects with industry partners, undergraduate students have many opportunities to apply their new knowledge and skills, extending their learning and interpersonal skills. As shown, these are frequently in diverse community and international settings. Our research groups and institutes give post-graduate students the opportunity to work on cutting-edge innovation and development, and purposeful relevant social research. This is often in cross-disciplinary teams working under the guidance and mentorship of highly qualified academics.

There is mutual benefit in our industry collaboration. On a strategic level, industry leaders from across the health and community service sectors make an important and valued contribution to the University’s direction and to the quality of research and education. The University seeks advice from industry leaders on an annual basis through our Health and Community Services Industry Forum; and every discipline is guided by industry-specific program advisory committees.

RMIT’s industry and community connectedness spans over 120 years from historic roots in urban Melbourne. We have grown into a truly global university with: a dual hub in Vietnam; partnerships with leading international organisations including the United Nations and the World Health Organization; and a dedicated global research institute dealing with the challenges facing cities of the world.

We are proud of RMIT’s ongoing contribution to the wellbeing and sustainability of the communities we live in. Collaboration and partnership is integral to the ongoing effectiveness and relevance of our work.

I acknowledge, welcome and encourage your further engagement with the University.

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
RMIT University
We are proud of RMIT’s work to improve individual and social health and wellbeing and our role in strengthening the capacity of the sector to meet the increasing challenges of today’s world.

RMIT has made, and continues to make a significant contribution to the health and community services professional workforce.

We are a long-standing and nationally recognised provider of education for a number of key health professions. This includes Division I and Division II nurses, clinical psychologists, disability professionals and a range of professions within medical sciences such as medical radiations, nuclear medicine, laboratory medicine and exercise sciences.

We educate a number of key professions in the community sector. These include social work, youth work, international studies, planning, translating and interpreting, community services, and justice administration.

RMIT has been pivotal in the establishment and growth of health professions such as chiropractic, osteopathy, myotherapy and Chinese medicine. Internationally recognised, our Chinese medicine division was designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine in 2005.

We are a national leader in clinical and field experience and work relevant learning. This directly benefits the community and ensures our graduates are fully equipped to meet the demands of their profession.

We deliver programs to support the health and community sectors’ ongoing workforce development needs. These are developed in consultation with industry and our offerings range from contextualised training through to post-graduate studies.

The University has extensive research expertise into issues of relevance to global and urban communities. This research is developed through our institutes, centres and programs which bring together multi-disciplinary teams to address complex issues in a time of rapid community change and globalisation.

Our health research works to address and provide solutions for the key health challenges of our times. Collaboration with industry and the community is integral to the relevance and impact of this work.

A number of recent research highlights feature in the following sections on health and community research and engagement. This is followed by a feature on our work and achievements as an innovative global focused university.

RMIT – A SNAPSHOT

- RMIT is the largest dual-sector university in Australia.
- In 2001, RMIT established Vietnam’s first and only fully foreign-owned university. RMIT Vietnam now delivers internationally recognised degrees from campuses in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.
- RMIT offers 924 programs ranging from apprenticeship training through to doctoral programs.
- The University has campuses in Melbourne’s CBD, in Brunswick and Bundoora in the city’s northern suburbs, and at a learning centre in Hamilton, as well as in Vietnam.
- Student population of 70,245 includes 10,000 international students at RMIT’s Melbourne CBD and suburban campuses and 4,000 students at RMIT Vietnam.
- RMIT delivers 55 programs to 11,700 students in association with partner institutions in Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia and elsewhere.
- The University has teaching and research connections on every continent.
- One of Australia’s original educational institutions, RMIT was established in 1887 as the Working Men’s College.
- The University is a member of the Australian Technology Network and the Global GU8 Consortium.
- RMIT has 3,530 staff in Melbourne and 392 in Vietnam.
We are proud to be taking a lead in research relating to preventative health and well-being, and our approach is underpinned by strong industry and community collaboration.

Research teams from across the University are tackling the big health challenges facing our community in a whole spectrum of areas – from diabetes, obesity, cancer detection and chronic pain, to heart disease, clinical care and electromagnetic radiation.

The passion, energy and intellect of our researchers is creating positive outcomes for the world we live in.

Our success is demonstrated through the diversity and relevance of our research projects, in the integration of these projects with the learning experience of our students, and through the invaluable and broad-ranging benefits our research brings to the community.

The Health Innovations Research Institute is a new RMIT initiative that addresses health issues facing the Australian community through research on how the human body functions at a molecular and cellular level, to developing innovative strategies for disease prevention and treatment.

The Institute’s goal is to translate basic science discoveries into better health outcomes, particularly in the area of neurological disorders and mental health, cardiovascular and related metabolic disorders.

The Institute brings together more than 50 key RMIT researchers and groups ranging from applied physics to biotechnology, cell biology, chemistry, exercise metabolism, biomedical engineering, Chinese herbal medicine, nanotechnology, physiology and pharmaceutical sciences.

Interdisciplinary research programs that are coordinated with industry partners seek to have a deeper understanding of the pathophysiology of diseases and to develop new ways to prevent and treat the changes that occur as diseases progress.

In addition to research and teaching, the Institute is developing outreach initiatives that include public lectures and tours, ‘discover science’ workshops for the public, a ‘scientist in the classroom’ project, extensive exercise and health programs as well as professional development courses for teachers and health professionals. In conjunction with RMIT’s Schools of Art and Creative Media, it is also developing artist and writer-in residence projects to explore the creative aspects of biomedical research.

The major research focus of the Institute’s new director, Professor David Adams, involves the potential of peptide toxins produced by marine cone snails to better control the chronic pain suffered by one in five Australians of working age. Professor Adams is the President of the Australian Physiological Society.
Research teams from across the University are tackling the big health challenges facing our community.

The Institute’s key research programs include the Ion Channel Laboratory, headed by Professor David Adams, which is exploring the nervous system and focusing on the membrane receptors and ion channels that transmit pain signals from peripheral sensory nerves to the brain. In examining the venom peptides from cone shells collected from the Great Barrier Reef, it is hoped in the future they will help to create potent new drugs for chronic pain, psychiatric disorders and to promote brain repair after stroke.

The Institute’s Metabolism, Exercise and Disease Program is investigating membrane transport and cell signaling in relation to the nervous and cardiovascular system in diseases such as heart failure, diabetes and neuropathic pain, as well as the development of vaccines against parasitic and bacterial diseases. Research on traditional and complementary medicine at the Institute includes the identification, isolation and structural modification of novel compounds in traditional Chinese herbal therapies for the treatment of intractable diseases.

Institute research investigating the health impacts of human exposure to systemic environmental radiation is also looking at the therapeutic effects of radiation such as wound healing.

How’s this for a stately set of acronyms? iGEM – MIT – RMIT.

RMIT, we know. MIT we should know, the world renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And iGEM? The prestigious International Genetically Engineered Machine competition which is held annually in late October-November at MIT in the USA.

A team of nine RMIT undergraduate students are taking up the iGEM challenge and have begun work in their own lab within the new Health Innovations Research Institute at the University’s Bundoora campus. They will compete with students from universities all over the world working in the new field of synthetic biology, the emerging interface of engineering and molecular biology.

Dr Len Pattenden, RMIT University’s iGEM team instructor, said, ‘Ultimately it is the goal of synthetic biology to make simple biological machines to deliver complex products and functions to society. These differences create unique outcomes and understandings to traditional fields of science and engineering.’

Students are considering projects such as: an antibody production machine; a biological desalination machine; a DNA repair system in sunscreen; wound reparative peptides; biological lights; an ovulation detection machine; and bioremediation engines.

Professor Philip Poronnik participated as a judge in the iGEM competition in 2008 and was immediately impressed by the learning opportunities it presented. ‘Students are exposed to real high level research, work on a problem of their choosing, learn team-based skills, chase their own funding, and have to stand up and present/defend their work publicly. It’s rare for students to get these opportunities so early on in their careers. It really opens students’ minds.’

Students have many factors to consider. Professor Poronnik said, ‘The field of synthetic biology has now been recognised as promising technology to create new pharmaceuticals, detoxify an environment and produce biofuels, but when you set out to create a genetically engineered machine which performs a desired function, you are often describing a form of artificial life and so you cannot escape the issues relating to biosafety, biosecurity, intellectual property, governance and regulation. I’m pleased the students are taking these facets into consideration with their project and establishing some novel approaches to address these significant concerns’.
RMIT is internationally renowned for its Chinese medicine education and research. RMIT was the first Australian university to offer Chinese herbal medicine degrees. Just 12 years after it began in 1993, it became an official World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine.

The University is now the largest Chinese medicine educator in the country and has trained more than 800 practitioners, including offshore students in Hong Kong. It’s a big success story – more than 40 per cent of Victoria’s registered Chinese medicine practitioners are RMIT graduates.

RMIT introduced the first – and still the only – five-year double degree program in Chinese medicine and human biology, and students can take one semester of clinical internship at the prestigious Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in China. The double bachelor degree program will soon be introduced in Malaysia through a partnership with a medical university.

The University’s strength in Chinese medicine is based on international and multidisciplinary collaboration, an evidence-based approach, rigorous research and development, and a commitment to integrate/harmonise with western medicine.

In 2008, the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies recognised RMIT Chinese Medicine with an award for international contribution to Chinese medicine.

Chinese medicine: East meets West

RMIT Chinese Medicine is the Victorian Node for the newly established National Collaborative Research Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine through collaboration with University of Sydney and University of Western Sydney.
Biomedical research

Biomedical research at RMIT is evolving from discipline-based research into collaborative research programs.

The University’s internationally renowned research groups draw on a multi-disciplinary scientific base.

Our research specialties include obesity and diabetes, neuroscience, cardiovascular disease, cancer biology, comparative biochemistry, natural products, exercise physiology and human movement, health and nutrition, toxicology and medical radiations.

SPOTLIGHT ON HEART RESEARCH

Professor Owen Woodman, from RMIT’s School of Medical Sciences, is leading research into the ability of flavonoids. These compounds are found in fruits and vegetables, tea and red wine, and can prevent or even reverse heart disease.

The research aims to develop new drugs based on flavonoids to reduce the amount of tissue damage caused by heart attacks. Professor Woodman is working with collaborators at Melbourne’s Bio21 and the Howard Florey institutes.

Cardiovascular disease, including heart attack and stroke, is the leading killer of Australians. National Heart Foundation statistics show that one Australian dies of cardiovascular disease every 10 minutes, accounting for 36 percent of deaths each year.

“Support from the NHMRC and the ARC is allowing us to develop an exciting new drug that can be administered to heart attack victims when they arrive at hospital,” said Professor Woodman.

“Although the number of people surviving heart attacks has increased in recent times, they still suffer long-lasting damage to their heart. The drug has been shown to reduce the amount of damage.”

It is estimated that at least 1.4 million people live with disability associated with heart disease, a condition that affects two in three families in Australia.

Professor Woodman’s team, the Vascular Biology Research Group, is also examining the mechanism of the vasodilator actions of flavonoids and their ability to prevent diabetes-induced and ischaemia-induced vascular dysfunction.

Human exposure to electromagnetic fields

RMIT researchers from the Biomedical Electronics Group in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering are investigating the health impacts of human exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Researchers are studying the possible health effects of human exposure to radiofrequency field radiation from mobile phones and other radio sources, as well as looking at new applications of electromagnetic radiation in areas such as wound healing and sleep therapy.

Key projects include research on systemic environmental radiation health impacts, through studying the bio-effects of ambient electromagnetic radiation and looking at the influence of electromagnetic radiation on cell growth and proliferation.

Researchers are also looking at new therapeutic applications of electromagnetic radiation in wound healing, sleep therapy, diagnostics and molecular activation.

One project is investigating the influence of biological molecules designed using the knowledge of their electromagnetic properties.

The group’s researchers are working on innovations to improve the reach and effectiveness of health monitoring systems for ECG, blood pressure waves, SpO2, skin impedance and blood pressure.

And in a separate project they are helping people in special circumstances or with a disability to use computers, by developing techniques than can identify subtle commands to give the human user a seamless interface with computers and other machinery.

RMIT drug discovery technologies

RMIT Drug Discovery Technologies is Victoria’s first specialist Good Laboratory Practice drug-testing laboratory.

A dedicated pre-clinical toxicology and bio-analytical laboratory, it provides high-quality and reliable drug testing services for local, national and international clients.

The laboratory provides world-class testing services to the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and chemical industries, amongst others. The RMIT company was incorporated in 2007.

The laboratory investigates the safety of chemicals including genotoxicity, cell and animal toxicology for industrial and medicinal purposes, veterinary products, cosmetics and agricultural chemicals. These studies form an essential part of the drug registration requirements of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory bodies.
**RESEARCH ON CANCER IMAGING**

Through RMIT’s Medical Radiations Research Group, talented postgraduate students are working on cutting-edge research projects involving cancer imaging and therapy, which are embedded in clinical practice and engaged with industry.

Collaboration with industry has been central to the success of the research group. Its leader, Associate Professor Simon Cowell from the School of Medical Sciences, said a focus on increasing research in the medical radiation professions since 2006 means the group now has 18 research students, 16 researchers and research collaborations with 28 organisations, 13 of which are international.

Australian and international collaborations provide the research group with the potential to produce a wider range of radiopharmaceuticals than any other centre in Australia.

**ON THE CUTTING EDGE**

PhD and research master students play an important role in the University’s research community – this is especially so in the field of medical radiations.

A doctoral research project being undertaken by PhD student Jyoti Lodhia aims to improve cancer diagnosis by developing a new MRI nanoparticle contrast agent. Iron oxide nanoparticles can be chemically joined to the antibodies of specific tumours, meaning that tumours, such as breast cancer, can be more clearly imaged and located with MRIs.

Through the Medical Radiations Research Group’s collaboration with the University of Alberta, Jyoti recently conducted a series of experiments with magnetic nanoparticles in a laboratory that was equipped with a research MRI with a powerful 9.4 Tesla magnet, which is not available in Australia.

Tamara Mills is a part-time PhD student who travels to Melbourne each month from Canberra where she works as Clinical Associate & Pharmacovigilance Manager for Radpharm-Global Medical Solutions. For her PhD project, Tamara is developing a new radioactive drug for the imaging and treatment of breast cancer.

Tamara is conducting experiments, using the radiisotope Lutetium 177, to develop a screening test to assess which breast cancer patients being treated by the chemotherapy drug Herceptin are at risk of heart damage. If Tamara’s research goes to plan, any patient whose heart is not affected by Herceptin, as imaged by the screening test, will be eligible to receive a more effective breast cancer treatment with a radioactive drug made from both Lutetium 177 and Herceptin.

**VACCINE RESEARCH**

RMIT scientists are working to advance industry application of disease control in an effort to understand the mechanisms of selected pathogens, and to improve disease detection and control in humans and animals. This expertise is being shared internationally.

Key projects include investigating the molecular and immunological characteristics and mechanisms of the pathogenicity of bacterial, viral and parasitic pathogens; developing specific immunological and molecular diagnostic methods for the rapid detection of food-borne organisms and veterinary pathogens; developing novel animal vaccines; developing mechanisms for vaccine antigen delivery; and developing new diagnostic techniques.

A workshop between RMIT and the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology focused on recent developments in avian influenza biology and advanced molecular techniques in vaccine development.

A team of RMIT researchers and post-doctoral fellows, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor Peter Coloe, combined with staff from Vietnam’s Institute of Biotechnology, VAST, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and key Vietnam ministries to deliver a workshop and molecular biology training course in Hanoi, which was funded by a grant from AusAID.
Almost 25 percent of Australian children and 65 percent of adults are considered overweight or obese.

Obesity, diabetes & nutrition
Multi-disciplinary research teams, specialist expertise and community and industry engagement all feature in valuable work at RMIT that addresses today’s critical health issues associated with obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

GROUNDBREAKING WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM
Associate Professor Jeff Walkley is one of the key researchers behind RMIT’s highly successful Choose Health program, which uses a groundbreaking approach to weight loss by helping overweight and obese adolescents change their lifestyle and eating habits.

The program has helped more than 150 teenagers work towards their weight loss goals and develop healthier eating and physical activity habits through cognitive behavioural therapy. The program has been adapted to adults and is being trialled in fitness centres as well as in Singapore.

Almost 25 percent of Australian children and adolescents and 65 percent of adults are considered overweight or obese. These rates have increased dramatically in recent years. Obesity has been shown to increase the risk of back pain and arthritis in adults, both of which are common causes of disability. In 2005, obesity-related disability was estimated to cost Australia more than $855 million.

Running over 10 weeks and featuring hour-long, one-on-one weekly sessions with health coaches, the program teaches adolescents and their families a range of strategies to improve their eating and activity habits as well as increasing their knowledge and skills in managing the environmental, physical, social, cognitive and emotional barriers to weight loss. Aimed at long-term behavioural changes, the adult study involves a treatment and maintenance phase run over four months.

The program brings RMIT researchers from psychology, nutrition and exercise sciences together with research partners, the Parenting Research Centre and the ATN Centre for Metabolic Fitness, as well as industry partner Belgravia Leisure. A VicHealth scholarship has been awarded to enable a PhD scholar to work on the study.

The outcomes of the research, which are important in reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease, will provide essential information for healthcare professionals about obesity, and will inform the development of programs to prevent and treat weight problems in children, adolescents and adults.

OBESITY AND DIABETES: A SNAPSHOT OF RESEARCH

- RMIT researchers in conjunction with Austin Health are investigating the benefits of weight training for people with and without type 2 diabetes.

- In a project funded by the Diabetes Australia Research Trust, Professor Emilio Badoer, from the School of Medical Sciences, is looking at the effects of obesity on the brain.

- The School of Medical Sciences has been awarded $100,000 to buy an ultrafast scanning confocal microscope for biomedical research, benefitting research studies on diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disorders and neuroscience research.

- RMIT’s School of Medical Sciences is undertaking ground-breaking research into the effect of resistance exercise on insulin sensitivity and diabetes risk. Leading exercise scientist, RMIT’s Professor John Hawley, is working with University of Michigan Medical School researchers to establish whether exercise training can reverse the risk factor profile in rats genetically predisposed to metabolic syndrome, a condition in which a group of risk factors for heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes occur together.

- Professor Hawley, one of the world’s eminent researchers in the area of fat and carbohydrate metabolism, recently released a major new textbook, Physical Activity and Type 2 Diabetes.

- RMIT is conducting a weight loss study to investigate the effectiveness of Chinese herbal medicine in tackling obesity. The study, in collaboration with the China Medical University in Taiwan, aims to evaluate the benefits of Chinese herbal medicine used to manage obesity.

- A nationwide study by RMIT and La Trobe University, What’s Really Eating You, is examining women’s perception of their weight.
**NUTRITION, DIET AND HEALTH**

**RMIT’s Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry**

Dr Neil Mann has always had a special interest in how humans have adapted as our diet has changed over time. He is particularly interested in lifestyle diseases related to our current Western diet of highly processed foods.

One such area is the relationship between the modern diet and acne, a condition never observed in hunter-gatherer groups eating unprocessed foods. Professor Mann and his team put this theory to the test with a groundbreaking study showing that a dietary solution to a chronic disease such as acne is possible.

The study, which investigated the role of diet and junk food on teenage skin, found that a protein-rich, low-GI diet with a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meat and fish that eliminated refined carbohydrates could have a dramatic effect on acne symptoms.

The research, in collaboration with the Royal Melbourne Hospital, was distributed as a booklet to more than 15,000 GPs, dietitians and dermatologists around the country. It appeared in *The Women’s Weekly* as a lift-out, as well as in scientific journals.

‘A diet high in processed foods pushes glucose and insulin levels higher, exacerbating the acne problem, but low-GI foods do the opposite. The mechanism and the results are as clear as day,’ Professor Mann said.

Through the Science Meets Parliament program, the RMIT academic has also been involved in discussions, on obesity and healthy eating, with federal politicians including the nutritional aspects of the Australian food supply and its connection to public health issues such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Professor Mann is currently collaborating with researchers from Oxford University’s Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology on a book that examines the relationship between modern-day diets, human evolution and subsequent health problems such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease that plague modern society.

RMIT’s research in food science focuses on the nutritional and health aspects of food products as well as product development in collaboration with the food industry.

**Health innovation**

**HEALTH SOLUTIONS THROUGH I.T.**

‘Australian hospital healthcare that’s fast, efficient and integrated with reduced waiting times and streamlined patient care is not an impossible dream,’ said Professor Brian Corbitt, Head of RMIT’s School of Business Information Technology.

The Business Information Technology School has particular expertise in this area, working with health administrators to make health information systems more effective and developing applications to improve health-related issues, disease management and treatment processes.

Researchers from the school are looking at hospitals in Singapore and Thailand, which are using integrated software adapted to all the various departments, saving enormous amounts of time and money, and making patient care smooth and efficient.

‘Medicine is discovering that there is a massive advantage in adopting IT,’ Professor Corbitt said.

He points to one example of cardiac surgeons who are now embedding electrical impulse wires in patients so that nurses can monitor the patient’s heart rate, for the first week after surgery, from anywhere in the ward.

Researchers from the RMIT school are also looking at the adoption of IT in emergency departments of a hospital in Victoria and one in Singapore in an attempt to streamline the workflow process so that information is shared, the possibility of errors is reduced and treatment time is quicker.

In other research, software was developed that allowed medical and training staff at an elite sports club to record athletes’ injuries and treatment using voice-activated digital recordings.

The information automatically went into a database where injury profiles of players could be pulled up— even details on whether more injuries occurred at a particular stadium or during interstate games.

Other research is looking at streamlining the workflow of pathology units in busy hospitals.

Professor Corbitt also led a project in Thailand helping rural doctors to use internet-connected laptops that gave them access to up-to-date information on the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients.

‘We believe the problem in the Australian health system lies in the conflict between the professional standards of the health industry and the commercial imperative imposed by the Federal Government and in the fact that it is controlled at the state and federal level, which makes the health system unwieldy, unintegrated and slow,’ he said.

‘We’re doing a study on the policy problems in the Australian health system, which is a key part of the problem.’
RMIT researchers, in partnership with St Vincent’s Hospital Emergency Department, are trialling music soundtracks in a collaborative RMIT research project aimed at relieving acute pain and anxiety. Outcomes of the project could benefit up to five million emergency patients annually.

For the second stage of the clinical trial in the hospital, 250 patients will listen to 20 one-minute compositions developed by RMIT composers for the Designing Sound for Health and Wellbeing project. Outcomes from this stage of the study will lead to longer compositions being composed and tested later this year.

Dr Keely Macarow, from RMIT’s School of Art, is project managing the research. ‘Our big hope is to identify and produce sound and music compositions that will be clinically proven to alleviate stress and anxiety,’ she said.

‘St Vincent’s is very keen to have a tool to help emergency patients. The research stemmed from a series of undergraduate projects and a relationship with St Vincent’s that has developed over several years. The signs are very hopeful. There are clearly some types of music that bring a smile to patients’ faces.’

This unique project is a registered clinical trial extending over three years and is supported under Australian Research Council’s Linkage Projects Funding Scheme.

The research team includes four RMIT researchers with expertise in music composition and performance, sound art and art history, and three St Vincent’s staff from emergency medicine and clinical psychology.

One of the outcomes of the project will be a policy paper which will be distributed to decision-makers in government and in health agencies.
Globally connected and located in the heart of the city, RMIT is committed to taking a leading role in partnering with stakeholders to meet the challenges of the Australian community.

The University has extensive expertise and experience in research into issues of relevance to global and urban communities.

At RMIT, research is based on community connectivity and the identification of local solutions to issues in an increasingly globalised world. This research is developed through our institutes, centres and programs which bring together multidisciplinary teams to address complex issues in a time of rapid community change and globalisation.

RMIT works in partnership with industry, community service organisations, government, service providers and policy-makers in Australia and internationally.

The University is proud of its track record in providing solutions to the key issues facing today’s communities.

Homelessness research

RMIT has undertaken extensive research into homelessness. Dr Guy Johnson is investigating the pathways into and out of homelessness to explain why some households experience a short period of homelessness while others remain homeless for a sustained period of time.

The collaborative research into 5000 homeless people will provide guidance for policy makers and service providers for years to come.

Dr Johnson is a post-doctoral Fellow at RMIT’s Australian Housing and Research Institute and has more than 15 years’ experience working with homeless households and those at risk.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics report, ‘Counting the Homeless 2006’, by RMIT’s Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain and Swinburne University’s Associate Professor David MacKenzie, found that the number of people in homeless families increased by 16.8 per cent between 2001 and 2006.

This is the result of more families escaping domestic violence, combined with the shortage of affordable housing and the absence of early intervention initiatives.

Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain, Director of RMIT’s Centre for Applied Social Research, took his extensive knowledge of homelessness and housing to the Australia 2020 Summit.
RMIT's Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has been in the media spotlight with its research on housing affordability, the credit crunch and negative equity for home owners – all pivotal to the sub-prime crisis in the US that resulted in the global financial crisis.

An important component of this research is a collaboration between researchers from RMIT and Durham University in Britain that looked at the mortgage choices of Australian and British homeowners from 2001-2005 – a period when house prices boomed and innovation in mortgage products made access to home equity easier than ever before.

Researchers found the capacity to borrow against housing wealth cheaply, easily and without moving home is a factor in the recent escalation of personal debt and said the credit crunch is not just precipitating a crisis in the finance community but may also prompt a crisis of welfare.

Survey data shows that more than 300,000 Australian home owners could slide into negative equity if house prices slump by 10 per cent leading to sharply rising rates of default and repossession. Those at most risk are young ‘battlers’ who have recently borrowed when booming house prices made purchase more difficult.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute is a national organisation specialising in housing and urban research and policy development with research centres at a number of universities around the country. RMIT’s AHURI’s expertise lies in housing affordability, labour and housing markets, sustainable housing and urban planning, indigenous housing, women and housing and homelessness. The centre has a multidisciplinary focus and draws on skills from a range of social science, business and humanities disciplines.

Centre for Applied Social Research

RMIT’s Centre for Applied Social Research was established in 1989 and has a long history of conducting significant social science research on key areas of social change and social policy.

The centre is committed to the idea that effective and equitable policy choices need to be founded upon insightful public debate and that debate requires historically and theoretically informed applied social research.

Researchers at the centre work collaboratively on projects with colleagues at national and international universities, government bodies and industry organisations. The centre’s principal areas of expertise include state care and protection; drug and alcohol policy, family violence, gender equality, health and human services, homelessness; public sector evaluation and workplace and industrial relations.

The centre’s Life After Care Project examined the impact on the lives of people who grew up in the welfare care system from 1945 to 1989. A book that draws on interviews from the research, ‘After the Orphanage: Life Beyond the Children’s Home’, was published in early 2009. The project was undertaken with MacKillop Family Services and researchers from RMIT’s School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning and the University of Melbourne.

After the Orphange: Life Beyond the Children’s Home

Research is based on community connectivity and identification of local solutions to issues in a globalised world.
Cultural diversity

RMIT supports and celebrates cultural and racial diversity, which is reflected in the diverse make-up of our academic community, in our support of cultural and language centres, in our programs and services, in the advice we give to government and in our student projects and scholarships.

A SNAPSHOT OF A CULTURALLY DIVERSE UNIVERSITY

› RMIT’s Australian campus is situated in the heart of Melbourne, one of the world’s most harmonious and culturally diverse communities where residents from more than 140 nations live side by side.
› Thirty five percent of our student population comes from outside Australia and 50 percent of our academic staff were born overseas.
› Refugees have access to education through our higher education and TAFE refugee scholarship program.
› The RMIT English Worldwide program provides English-language training to international students for entry to tertiary study and now works with corporate and industry markets.
› Our Translating and Interpreting programs and services play an important role in skillling and supporting Australia’s culturally diverse society.
› The partnership between RMIT and Melbourne’s Greek community continues to preserve Greek culture in Australia through the RMIT Greek-Australian Resource and Learning Centre, which supports Greek language and cultural studies programs and houses a comprehensive collection on Greek settlement.
› The Chinese Australian Studies Forum organises symposia, lectures, visiting scholars, study tours and students exchange programs. It also undertakes research and collaborations, and provides training for Chinese government officials and delegations as well as professional development programs for language teachers. The forum is also responsible for the HSK, the only Chinese proficiency test recognised worldwide.
› A documentary project called ‘Living Memories’ saw RMIT media students collaborating with the National Council of Jewish Women to explore the stories and memories of a group of older women (livingmemories.net.au). The project was supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image.
› Dr Sylvia Greda Bogusz, from the Business TAFE School, is one of 16 experts chosen to form the new Australian Multicultural Advisory Council, set up to advise the Federal Government on promoting social cohesion, migrants in Australia, overcoming racism and communicating these complex issues to the public.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION POLICY

An RMIT team is behind a ground-breaking multicultural education policy designed for Victorian government schools.

The policy was launched by the Education Minister Bronwyn Pike in March 2009. Professor Desmond Cahill, who led the team of researchers behind the policy, said it was the first time that education policy had been merged with an international outlook. He said the policy was built on Victoria’s multicultural and interfaith diversity and on Australia’s place in a globalising world.

“This new policy is a breakthrough because it embeds cultural diversity and social cohesion as central to learning and teaching,” Professor Cahill said.

“By combining the local with the global, this new approach aspires to make all Victorian school students informed and thoughtful global citizens of the future.”

The team of RMIT researchers built the policy on a national and international literature review, as well consultations with schools and senior officials from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
**Indigenous access**

RMIT is deeply committed to increasing Indigenous participation in our higher education and TAFE programs and to strengthening our engagement with the Indigenous community.

**INDIGENOUS RESEARCH**

RMIT's current Indigenous-related research includes a project to boost Indigenous entrepreneurship in Victoria.

Chief investigator of the Indigenous entrepreneurship project, Associate Professor Adela McMurray, said researchers are working with the Koori Business Network to find ways of reconciling Indigenous community values with mainstream business practices.

‘The three-year project is wide-ranging and hands-on, comparing about 400 Indigenous businesses across Victoria,’ said Associate Professor McMurray, the Assistant Dean, Research and Innovation, in RMIT’s School of Management.

In other initiatives, Professor Patricia Rogers, from RMIT’s Centre for Applied Social Research, is leading a review of current approaches in the effective delivery of Indigenous leadership development for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Professor Rogers recently completed a national evaluation of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy for the Department. Her report concluded that the strategy had made a significant contribution to strengthening Indigenous families and communities. However the attainment of strong Indigenous families and communities can only be attained through a process of sustained long-term intervention.

The Telstra Foundation is partnering research on the role of Indigenous cultural festivals in creating spaces for communities to assert their identity in positive ways. The research is being undertaken by RMIT’s Globalism Institute.

**DESIGNS FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH**

RMIT students unveiled proposals for the design of an Aboriginal health clinic to Northern Territory community leaders.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners funded RMIT architecture students who visited the Ampilatwatja community, five hours’ drive from Alice Springs, in 2008.

The Ampilatwatja community comprises about 400 people, with a high number of young people. The students met with people from the community, including its first Aboriginal health worker, who initially ran her clinic from a caravan.

Architecture lecturer Brendan Jones said many Aboriginal health services need investment in rebuilding and refurbishment.

‘Building design has a pervasive impact on the capacity of the health service to meet the needs of the community, especially the men,’ he said.

‘In part, this is because men may find it shameful to attend a clinic for cultural reasons, for example coming into contact with people who their culture requires them to avoid.’
A SNAPSHOT OF INITIATIVES

- RMIT’s Indigenous Access Scheme enables program selection staff as well as staff from the Ngarara Willim Indigenous Centre to meet with Indigenous applicants in an informal setting to discuss vocational options and to provide information on programs, pathways and study choices.

- A study tour for Indigenous students to the Philippines to investigate housing, education and environmental programs.

- The Koori Express initiative provided free transport and accommodation for prospective students and their families from regional Victoria during RMIT’s Open Day in 2008.

- The opening of the Keelbundoora Scarred Tree and Heritage Trail at our Bundoora campus.

- Koori women’s group undertook the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

- Students from Aboriginal Youth Arts and Culture program, run by Dianella Community Health in Melbourne’s north-west, participated in a School of Fashion and Textiles workshop to develop beachwear and sports clothing.

DEEP LISTENING

Leading Indigenous artists will feature in a two-year program of performances and exhibitions celebrating new research by RMIT’s Koori Cohort.

Combining Indigenous culture, art, music and multi-media, the Koori Cohort’s Deep Listening Project will promote the Indigenous concept of Deep Listening, which appears in many Aboriginal languages, and means listening deeply and respectfully in ways that build community.

The Koori Cohort, which currently involves 15 post-graduate researchers, was set up by RMIT to foster a generation of Indigenous researchers and educators working to help protect, restore and revitalise Victoria’s Indigenous culture.

The project is funded by Silcar, which provides asset management, construction and maintenance services to a range of industries, including manufacturing, energy systems, metal processing and mining.

Silcar Chief Executive Officer Bernie Cooper says the company is deeply committed to supporting the Koori Cohort and is looking forward to exploring the organisational benefits of Deep Listening.

Koori training

RMIT’s Koorie Community Services team works in partnership with Victorian Aboriginal organisations to provide training that builds on their staff’s strengths and recognises their skills. Indigenous and other trainers flexibly deliver the Diploma of Management, and Certificate and Diploma of Youth Work through specialised workshops across the State. And over 50 community workers have undertaken training with RMIT in the Diploma of Community Education.

Participants undertake learning projects of value to their communities including the development of youth and other well-being programs, agency websites, and refining report and submission writing skills.

The work often extends interstate. RMIT recently delivered cultural awareness (Aboriginal) training to over 200 WorkCover NSW staff and management. The training was a high priority for WorkCover who wanted to ensure the organisation engaged appropriately with Aboriginal communities. There was an exceptionally high level of support and interest in the training.

The training package was developed collaboratively with Workcover and delivered by indigenous teachers across NSW.

‘In any organisation, the ability to act with a sense of calm and confidence based on intuitive “knowing” is highly valuable,’ he said.

‘Developing the capacity for Deep Listening enhances people’s ability to operate in a state of increased awareness and mindfulness in their work and private lives.’
Young people

RMIT is closely engaged with the community and education sector in work that supports young people. As well as extensive research capability, we run ongoing equity and career programs, and initiatives in partnership with other organisations. Students from a broad range of social science, health and medical science disciplines contribute to the sector through field placements and projects with industry, and in community settings.

Budding Scientists

RMIT has been leading a state-wide program to help young people learn first-hand about career opportunities in the field of Laboratory Medicine.

In partnership with medical diagnostic and research laboratories, RMIT’s School of Medical Sciences conducts a week-long lab tour program each year.

The tours give students from Years 10-12 insights into laboratory investigation, diagnosis, and the treatment and monitoring of disease. Students learn about the crucial role that medical scientists play in conducting a vast array of tests on body fluids and tissues, with the results accounting for up to 70 per cent of the clinical decisions made by doctors.

The RMIT lab tours aim to encourage budding scientists to consider a career in Australia’s rapidly expanding healthcare system.

VCE Students Go High Tech

More than 1350 secondary students from around Victoria annually attend the School of Medical Sciences’ VCE Physical Education Enhancement Program, which has been run by RMIT for more than 12 years.

Leigh Brown, Program Coordinator of Physical Education in the School of Medical Sciences, said the students were shown valuable insights into the world of exercise science.

‘The program is aimed at showing students how to design training programs and test fitness components,’ he said.

The students completed a series of laboratory sessions including a VO2 max test to measure maximum oxygen uptake in the Exercise Sciences Laboratory and a Peak Power test on the Repco bike to test their leg power.’

One of the highlights was the addition of a GPS system that provided ‘live’ physical data to the students.

The program is run with the help of students from RMIT’s Human Movement and Physical Education programs.

A Snapshot of Work for Youth

- Schools Network Access Program (SNAP) is our long-standing equity program which works with secondary schools to increase students access to our higher education programs.
- Our School of Education runs VCE and VCAL programs at our city campus.
- Local community partnership services are delivered in north-eastern Melbourne.
- The School of Medical Science has a long-standing experiential program for secondary students in exercise sciences and laboratory medicine.
- RMIT has run the Siemens Science Experience for more than 10 years.
- Academics from youth work and economics held a forum on ‘the Global Financial Crisis and Young People’ in 2009.
- otherWISE is a leadership program for young people run in partnership with the International Young Professionals Foundation.
- RMIT is also a partner in the Multifaith Multicultural Youth Mentoring program.
- RMIT is a key partner in the ‘Landscape for Youth’ project in the Glenelg Southern Grampians area.
Disability

RMIT has long-standing vocational expertise in the area of disability, drawn across its higher education and TAFE education and academic research and through the work undertaken by cross-disciplinary teams working on community-focused projects with the community.

CREATING A SPORTING CHANCE

An award-winning RMIT program gives children, adolescents and adults with an intellectual disability the chance to be involved in ongoing activities and sporting programs. Its integration with our undergraduate's learning experience is an enriching experience for everyone involved.

Creating a Sporting Chance is held at the Bundoora Netball and Sports Centre, which runs more than 10 programs each year involving hundreds of people with an intellectual disability. These programs included exercise to music, resistance training, netball, soccer and cricket.

The program was spearheaded by the Exercise Sciences Group within RMIT's School of Medical Sciences, which has been actively promoting physical activity, sport and recreation to disadvantaged groups for the past 20 years.

In 2008, the program won the inaugural Aquatics and Recreation Victoria Award for Outstanding Community Recreation Programming. With funding from VicHealth, RMIT has worked with Victoria University to replicate the program in Melbourne's western region.

Creating a Sporting Chance has provided a unique community engagement and work-integrated learning opportunity for students from RMIT's disability studies, physical education and human movement programs, and more recently from Victoria University's human movement, physical education, education and recreation programs.

Invaluable fieldwork experience helps students to link theory to practice, and creates a positive experience of supporting a person with a disability to engage in sport and physical activities in a community environment.

In 2008, 410 undergraduates took part in the program across both universities. The program proved so successful that it is now the first field-experience students undertake in the first year of the degree program. Subject evaluations indicate many students rate this experience as a highlight of their degree programs.
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

RMIT has a long-standing partnership with the Education Program for Infants and Children (EPIC), a community service organisation established in 1976 and located at RMIT’s Bundoora campus. EPIC is one of the major service providers in Victoria of early childhood intervention programs for children with a range of developmental concerns and disabilities. EPIC hosts a range of RMIT Psychology and Disability Studies students undertaking placements for clinical and research purposes. Students work closely with staff, children and families in a variety of situations, including group sessions, home visits, consultations with childcare centres and schools. Research for postgraduate students at honours, masters and PhD levels at EPIC include topics such as quality of life in families of young children with disabilities; family resilience; social support for siblings of children with disabilities; teaching strategies; environments that support social development in children with disabilities; and family adaptation to disability.

Leadership skills for people with a disability

RMIT is a key partner and supporter of a highly successful community program which develops leadership skills for people with a disability. The program is coordinated by Leadership Plus, a Victorian community organisation sponsored by philanthropic trusts and foundations. It works to promote people with disabilities as leaders. RMIT has delivered the training for the Leadership Plus program since its inception as a pilot project in 2004.

20 years of disability education

2009 is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the undergraduate degree in disability studies. Since then disability studies has grown to include an honours year, a Graduate Diploma in Disability Studies, a double degree in disability studies and education and a growing number of higher degree by research students. This suite of programs make a critical contribution to the lives of people with disabilities and the community by preparing graduates who engage in evidence-based practices as advanced practitioners.

The rights and needs of people with disabilities are promoted through the disability studies programs, the higher degree by research students and the extensive research conducted by RMIT staff and the contribution they have made to government policy relating to disability in Australia. For example, the double degree in disability studies and education recognises and supports the inclusion of students with disabilities in all types of school settings by preparing teachers who are able to educate students with diverse abilities.

Disability Studies research undertaken by RMIT staff is inclusive of people with disabilities and underpins practices in the sector as well as service delivery models and policies. RMIT also has the dual sector advantage of being able to offer disability education at certificate and diploma level. The disability worker programs educate those who wish to provide services to people with a disability and can be a pathway into the University’s higher education programs.

The program enables people with disabilities to develop leadership capacities in the social, environmental and business sectors. It is an accredited program, based on six units from the Diploma of Community Education. The 25 participants of each training intake are selected on the basis of their leadership and advocacy work.

The 2009 Leadership Plus program consists of a three-day retreat in Geelong at the commencement of the program, followed by eight two-day seminars at various locations in Victoria.

Further information:

www.leadershipplus.com
A SOOTHING HAND

After Australia’s worst bushfire disaster, the Black Saturday fires, 60 RMIT students offered their services at emergency chiropractic clinics established under the leadership of two Master of Clinical Chiropractic students, Carla Murdoch and Dominic Flynn.

The student volunteers helped to heal the aches and strains of hundreds of police, emergency, fire fighter and wildlife rescue volunteers over 15 days, through mobile clinics set up at Whittlesea and Healesville.

RMIT and the Chiropractors Association of Australia arranged for professional chiropractors to volunteer their services and supervise the work of students.

Head of Chiropractic’s Discipline RMIT, Associate Professor Phillip Ebrall, said the student volunteers were exposed to a range of atypical clinical presentations such as acute discs with bilateral sciatica, brachial plexus syndromes, compartmentalised haematoma, spinal fractures and multiple burns.

‘The majority of patients also presented with painful sprain and strain injuries, which were complicated by the intense emotional impact of the tragedy,’ he said.

Ms Murdoch said using their skills in a humanitarian setting was an eye-opener for the students.

‘Working on the ground at the staging areas was a reality-check for all of us,’ she said.
‘The experience was heartbreaking, yet heart warming.’

IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT

RMIT youth work, social work and education students are the cornerstone of Fit to Drive, a state-wide education program for young drivers initially developed by RMIT, VicRoads and secondary schools in the Mornington Peninsula.

Since its inception in 2001, more than 50,000 secondary school students have participated in the program, which has been implemented by more than 150 secondary schools.

Working alongside officers from organisations such as the Metropolitan Fire, Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority, local government, road safety and police, RMIT students facilitate workshops for Year 11 students that explore and challenge their attitudes toward risky driving.

The program’s developer, RMIT youth work coordinator Kerry Montero, said, ‘Fit to Drive is a great example of youth work practice in the school setting. It is about working in partnership with young people to promote their interests and enhance their well being.’
RMIT is a truly global university. Our research programs and partnerships reach across the world, and their outcomes enrich the communities we work within.

The global university of technology

With campuses in Melbourne and Vietnam, we also work with partner universities around the world to deliver degree and TAFE programs to more than 10,000 students.

RMIT is one of the most successful providers of international education in Australia, with more than 25,000 international students from more than 100 countries. International students – onshore and offshore – make up 37 percent of RMIT’s student body, one of the highest proportions in Australia and worldwide.

Our approach to work-integrated learning means that every student has the opportunity during their studies to put the knowledge they have gained into practice outside the classroom. Many of these opportunities involve overseas projects and placements that enable students to gain the experience, attributes and abilities to pursue their careers worldwide.

The University is committed to providing its graduates with a global passport – training that’s industry-relevant backed up by work experience to produce graduates with the qualifications, skills and confidence essential to be the leaders and managers of the future.
In 1998, RMIT was invited by the Vietnamese Government to establish the first foreign-owned university in Vietnam, delivering undergraduate and postgraduate education, training and research.

RMIT Vietnam now has 4000 students studying at its Hanoi and Saigon South campuses. Saigon South is a new state-of-the-art campus with modern laboratories and teaching facilities. The University boasts a truly global population with students from 12 countries across Asia, Europe and the US.

All degrees are recognised by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training and are awarded by RMIT in Australia. This means that Vietnamese students can receive an international tertiary qualification without having to leave home.

Programs offered are business focused and include commerce, technology, accountancy, business information systems, and professional communication. An internship program helps students become work-ready by providing valuable on-the-job experience that puts theory into practice.

A strong program of exchanges and scholarships allows students to conduct high-level research in Vietnam and Australia. A scholarship funding program between RMIT and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training is building partnerships with Vietnamese institutions and supporting responses to local issues.

The research partnerships cover a range of areas including environment, water, biotechnology, aerospace, climate change and food safety. The project has so far supported more than 20 master and doctoral students.

By 2008, RMIT Vietnam had awarded 538 scholarships worth nearly $US4 million, including entry into new academic programs with high employment growth potential to graduates. Full and partial scholarships are available for outstanding and disadvantaged students.

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Community fundraising events are common. An RMIT Vietnam staff member recently donated more than four million VND in groceries, on behalf of staff, to a leper compound in Binh Duong province.

RMIT Vietnam has a HIV Prevention Working Group whose work includes a special World AIDS Day event.

RMIT Vietnam students have been helping visiting students from Architecture and Design and Property and Construction with their designs for a 12-student dormitory to house underprivileged youth in Hoi An, a small river port town in central Vietnam. The dormitory will be built by Lifestart Foundation and Architects Without Frontiers.

RMIT Vietnam’s recreational facilities are shared with the local community.
UN Global Compact Cities Programme

Melbourne is at the heart of a global effort to combat the intractable problems faced by cities around the world as RMIT leads a major United Nations international urban governance program.

The International Secretariat of the United Nations Global Compact – Cities Programme explores new ways of dealing with the social, environmental and economic problems facing the world’s urban centres.

Long-term and intractable urban issues – from slums to human rights and anti-corruption, traffic safety and water, waste and sanitation management – are the focus of the program. It provides a unique framework that helps cities bring together business, government and the community to produce solutions that are practical, local and sustainable.

Under the program, 15 cities around the world are conducting major projects targeting their priority issues, while another 60 cities have signed onto the Global Compact Principles. Melbourne was among the first to sign up with a project looking at access to essential services for people in financial hardship. Other cities involved include Berlin, San Francisco, the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, and Jinan in China.

‘Every city is facing these kinds of challenges in their own particular context, whether it’s transport problems, housing or pollution,’ the Programme’s Director, Professor Paul James said.

The program comes under the auspices of RMIT’s Global Cities Research Institute, which addresses the challenge of sustainability, resilience, security and adaptation through research with significant on-the-ground impact, particularly in the face of globalisation and climate change.

The institute focuses on a number of cities in the Asia-Pacific region through research with pressing consequences for communities, governments and organisations.

RMIT’s Global Cities Research Institutes key research areas include:

- climate change adaptation and technological solutions;
- the intensification of cultural flows through globalising cities;
- understanding the effects of social change on communities;
- addressing ways in which cities can respond in a sustainable way to growing demands;
- looking at recovery from conflict and disaster and investigating the impact of globalisation on higher education.
Global work integrated learning

RMIT students from across disciplines in Melbourne and Saigon are working together on two valuable projects in Vietnam that are enriching both communities. This is the beginning of an exciting new program of interdisciplinary work-integrated learning for Melbourne students, centred on Vietnam.

Students are working with the Long Hoa Orphanage, in Ho Chi Minh City, on ways to turn a donated water bottling plant into an income-generating enterprise. A team of 15 students in Melbourne, guided by nine students in Saigon, are developing a logistics and business plan as well as looking at the impact it will have on the Buddhist orphanage and its 125 children, who range from four to 20 years old. Selling safe bottled drinking water will help the orphanage to become self-sustaining. The project involves students from marketing, accounting, economics & finance, entrepreneurship, international development, social work, and project management.

Another team of Melbourne students is working on a project with the DaNang Hospital’s pediatric ward in Central Vietnam. The busy ward has only 150 beds for an average of 350 patients. The team of 20 Melbourne and five Saigon students is working on plans to redevelop and redesign the wards.

Some of the challenges include the fact that the ward is spread across four levels with no elevators and that families caring for patients need somewhere to sleep, cook and bathe. The project involves students from nursing, architecture, entrepreneurship, occupational health and safety, electrical engineering, chinese medicine, business and accounting.

The Melbourne teams will travel to Vietnam for two weeks in 2009, getting feedback and discussion before presenting their proposals with a recommendation for the next stage of development involving students from both campuses. The projects are taken as elective subjects.

Dr Julie Roberts, from Teaching and Learning Development Unit, said, ‘It is RMIT’s philosophy to learn by doing. Every student has some sort of professional experience outside the classroom – getting out in the real world with real people and testing the information they’ve learnt in the classroom.’
Focus on globalism

RMIT’s Globalism Research Centre specialises in research that develops socially sustainable and culturally sensitive responses to the demands of globalisation.

Founded in 2002, the centre is committed to rethinking the relationship between the global and the local. It seeks to understand and evaluate current directions of global change, and the cultural implications of political and economic change. Staff at the centre teach and supervise within the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning and in other related programs.

The centre’s diverse research projects range from investigating ‘justice globalism’ — the political ideology associated with the global justice movement — to environmental sustainability and looking at land use, planning and developing sustainable communities.

Other research includes the Papua New Guinea Policy Development Project, which looked at 11 communities ranging from remote Highland villages to settler communities in Port Moresby. In 2007, the PNG Government adopted the Integrated Community Development Policy, a direct outcome of the research project that is paving the way for the creation of a network of locally-based community learning and development centres across the country.

And other research at the centre assessed and compared five post-tsunami resettlement projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India that will inform the development of strategies by AusAID and policy makers to strengthen responses to post-disaster resettlement needs.

Translating and interpreting

In Australia’s culturally diverse society there is a strong demand for interpreters and translators. Australia’s growing international links based on trade and inter-country relations have also increased the need for these professionals. Translators are used in a variety of settings including hospitals, courts, legal centres and schools.

RMIT’s strength in translating and interpreting education presents excellent opportunities and support for those now living in Australia.

The University’s expertise in translating and interpreting is also recognised and utilised internationally, with work reaching across many countries and professions. RMIT’s Director of Translating and Interpreting, Dr Barry Turner, recently took interpreters at Singapore’s Supreme Court through a workshop on note-taking for consecutive interpreting. Singapore’s Supreme Court employs interpreters in Mandarin, Tamil and Malay, the country’s three official languages.

Dr Turner also conducted a high-level workshop for 36 of Indonesia’s leading interpreters at the invitation of the Indonesian Association of Translators.

Singapore’s Criminal Investigation Department’s staff recently received interpreter training from RMIT. Additionally, Singapore’s Institute of Management and the University of Indonesia have worked closely with RMIT to develop collaborative teaching resources and workshops for their students in translating and interpreting.

Cambodian journey

Sotheary Ly’s dream was to work in a developing country and to one day go back to Cambodia to make a difference.

She arrived in Melbourne when she was 16 without speaking a word of English and has since achieved many goals, culminating in selection for a prestigious 2009 Future Summit Australian Leadership Award.

Ms Le was also awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003, by then Prime Minister John Howard, in recognition of her contribution to Australian society.

Ms Ly completed two postgraduate studies at RMIT, including a Master of Social Science and an Advanced Diploma of Interpreting and Translating.

She has since returned to Cambodia to take up the challenge of working with the Healthcare Centre for Children to help stop human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children.

Dr Barry Turner conducting a workshop at Singapore’s Supreme Court

Sotheary Ly

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Thai SEEDS of the future

Youth migration in an ethnically unique part of north-east Thailand is a serious issue for all – individuals, families and the community – because it erodes culture, and language and weakens the family structure. Lack of employment drives many over the age of 16 out of this beautiful part of the world that borders Cambodia and Laos.

RMIT students are leading an exciting and ambitious initiative working to skill and empower the local community in developing sustainable new business: agriculture, agroforestry, artisanship and ecotourism.

Brainchild of RMIT international studies alumnus, Rebekah Farrell, the Thailand Youth Capacity Building Project stemmed from her experience working on a research project during her undergraduate studies. The work was lead by Paul Battersby who had worked with communities on the Mun River for over fourteen years.

The project aims to be ongoing and sustainable and will draw new students each year from across disciplines. Jessica Hall is one of the leaders of the project team who developed the project in Melbourne and said, ‘It’s been a great experience to work with the other students developing this project. The guidance and mentoring we’ve had from our academic has been invaluable in this process’.

Interest in the project is growing from across the University, with enquiries from civil engineering and professional communications students. The project will be documented by a master student.

Anna Poluleuligaga – part of the team who travels to Thailand and works with the Thai community over a three month period – said she is so excited and happy to be involved.

‘Its great to have the opportunity to do valuable things in the real world, putting our studies into practice. The work will be accredited as part of our studies under the field studies or internship component of the program. Our preparation has been pretty intense, with Thai language and cross cultural studies, but it really helps’.

The project has attracted funding and support from the new RMIT Student Entrepreneurship, Education and Development in Society group – known as RMIT SEEDS. This is a student-led initiative that aims to establish and nurture student projects that help communities to grow. It is one of four initiatives which include active reconciliation, art workshops and collaboratively made performances of music and dance pieces inspired and led by local Indigenous artists, and a clothing exchange program that has been running for two years in Melbourne and is ready to go national and find its place in schools, councils and community organisations.

The project has also received support from the Australia Thai Institute.
RMIT is deeply committed to its collaboration with industry and the community. Industry engagement is integral to our delivery of work-relevant learning and applied research that meets the needs of industry and society more broadly, and to our development of work-ready, globally focused, highly skilled graduates.

There are many opportunities for industry to align with the University and engage with RMIT staff and students. These range from strategic alliances and collaborative research, to providing advice, working with students and guest lecturing.

**INDUSTRY FORUMS**

Each year RMIT hosts industry forums in five designated industry areas. A small group of industry leaders provide advice and discuss key issues and developments with the Vice-Chancellor and senior academic staff. The annual Health and Community Services Forum provides a valuable contribution to the University’s direction, education programs, facilities and research focus.

**PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Industry and the broader community play a very important ongoing role in shaping education programs through the University’s program advisory committees which operate in every RMIT School.

The committees guide the development, delivery and assessment of TAFE and higher education programs, ensuring they are aligned to the needs of industry teaching and learning programs.

They also provide advice to the University on professional relationships, the accreditation of programs by external bodies, and research and development activities.

**WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING**

RMIT is committed to providing education that equips its graduates to be ready to enter the workforce. Work-integrated learning is built into TAFE and higher education programs across the University and ranges from paid cooperative education, field placements and internships, to collaborative research projects with industry and simulated work experiences.

**GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT**

RMIT’s Careers, Development and Employment group helps employers to promote work opportunities to our graduates. Services include eJOBS, an online jobs board which is powered by CareerHub, Australia’s largest student employment network, and the annual RMIT Careers Expo which attracts more than 130 exhibiting employers and 2500 students.

**SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND PRIZES**

Scholarships, awards and prizes are among the ways industry supports students and the University. Many scholarships offered by the business community involve providing opportunities for students in the workplace, sending students overseas to look at best practice in the global industry, and supporting and promoting researchers working on industry-relevant projects.

**RMIT STAFF ENGAGEMENT WITH INDUSTRY**

There are a number of ways in which expert academic staff work collaboratively with industry. These include linkage research, work secondments and policy advice.
Clinical experience

The University’s clinical experience programs, coupled with our national leadership and active support of industry associations, has positioned the University as a national and global provider of choice for a number of health professions.

In fact, RMIT is the original provider of osteopathic education in Australia, with programs dating back to 1986 and also a world pioneer in chiropractic education, commencing the first government-supported program in 1975. This strength has been enhanced by the establishment of Chinese Medicine in 1995, the first Australian University to offer this form of education and now designated as a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for traditional medicine.

There are many benefits to local communities from RMIT’s expertise in these health areas.

The University operates teaching clinics which are open to the public in:
- Chinese Medicine (Bundoora campus)
- Chiropractic (Bundoora campus and Bulleen)
- Osteopathy (Bundoora campus)
- Psychology (Bundoora and City campuses)
- Remedial Massage/Myotherapy (City campus)

Our chiropractic clinics register over 40,000 patient visits per year and the osteopathy clinic at Bundoora delivers over 8000 treatments a year.

As well as public clinics, work-related learning and experience is incorporated into RMIT health programs in a multitude of ways, for example:
- Chinese medicine students participate in supervised training at an acute care clinic in Melbourne’s Northern Hospital.
- RMIT Chiropractic operates community outreach clinics in St Kilda and Collingwood in partnership with Hands on Health Australia.
- Certificate IV Nursing students undertake clinical placements with 100 health providers across Victoria. Additionally, there are opportunities for work placements as medical assistants in the Australian Defence Forces.
- Pathology laboratories host work placements in specimen collection and specimen analysis programs.
- All Chinese medicine students undertake one semester of clinical internship at Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine in China.
- Most medical science students spend up to 25 percent of their studies gaining hands-on experience in workplaces in Australia or overseas.

Dental prosthetic services are provided to public patients at the Royal Dental Hospital and at regional Dental Community Centres in partnership with Dental Health Services Victoria.

“ Our chiropractic clinics register over 40,000 patient visits per year. ”
As an employer keen to forge a relationship with a university partner, Melbourne Health issued the following brief to students in the College of Business for a work-integrated learning project.

"Melbourne Health employs 6,000 employees over a range of sites and provides quality health care in both acute trauma and palliative care settings.

The organisation seeks an enthusiastic individual with well-developed communication and organisational skills to conduct a survey of employees to measure the operational impact of an ageing workforce.

The ideal candidates will have research experience and ability to write reports. An interest and experience in conducting small focus group feedback sessions and staff surveys would be advantageous.

The project will involve designing and implementing surveys, identifying target areas for research and proposing strategies for retention of staff. A good working grasp of Microsoft Word and Excel is required.

The position requires highly motivated and industrious individuals who seek the opportunity to play a key role in an exciting research project and to work under the supervision of a committed and supportive team." (Melbourne Health, 2006)

The two Bachelor of Business (Management) students who were successful in securing this work-integrated learning project, Gerald Leong and Tom Vu, produced and presented a report to the Human Resources management team at Melbourne Health that offered a number of recommendations to retain key personnel in an ageing workforce.

The students’ recommended workforce development retention strategy was based on research they conducted on comparable strategies in the health and related fields, a survey of existing employees, analysis of the findings and a compilation of the primary and secondary data.

Melbourne Health valued the students’ report and indicated that it served as the impetus to further develop their workforce retention strategy.

Tom Vu, who now works with the federal government, said he found the experience very valuable. ‘It was great to work with professionals. The highlight was presenting our results and recommendations to the Board of Melbourne Health. We were okay with it because we were prepared and confident because our work was based on real data and facts. The support from Freiderika (Kaider) was really good.’

Business students and Melbourne Health

Maths and stats solutions for industry

From 2010 to 2012, RMIT will host the annual Mathematics and Statistics in Industry Study Group (MISG). This week-long workshop brings together over 150 leading mathematicians, from universities and the public and private sector from across Australia and around the world, to tackle complex technical problems facing businesses and industry.

The workshop provides practical solutions to real industry problems using methods from across the mathematical sciences.

‘The workshops are of real value to industry and are very exciting to be involved in,’ said long-time MISG mathematician, Kaye Marion.

‘Many people have difficulty understanding how maths is applied in commercial and work settings. Basically maths is used in all decision making. Any problem that has proved too difficult to date is ideal for this group to tackle.’

Selected companies contribute $7000 and utilise the collective knowledge and resources of these mathematicians to address operational challenges during the course of the week. This multi-faceted approach to problem-solving makes the Mathematics and Statistics in Industry Study Group a dynamic and productive forum.

Kaye Marion is the leader of Statsworks, the consultancy arm of RMIT’s School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences. Statsworks works with a broad range of industry partners and the group’s experience in health has included: work with the Royal Melbourne Hospital on Capsule Endoscopy; the influence of Vitamin D in liver cancer, the effect of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and type 2 diabetes on survival and response to treatment in hepatocellular carcinoma; and the impact of case discussion at a multidisciplinary team meeting on the treatment and survival of patients with inoperable non-small cell lung cancer.

MISG mathematician, Kaye Marion
RMIT has a long-established reputation of working closely with industry partners to provide workforce development solutions that meet the needs of today’s rapidly changing and complex work environment. This is achieved through training and professional development that is customised and offers a blend of learning options such as intensive workshops, workplace delivery and e-learning.

Our dual sector advantage enables progression to higher education qualifications. We are at the forefront of new program development to meet industry workforce needs, reflected in our new Diploma of Health and Human Rights Education programs. Our postgraduate education is designed for practising professionals in all fields within the health, medical science, social science and international development disciplines.
Leadership and management

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

RMIT’s Graduate School of Business is recognised throughout the Asia-Pacific region as a leader in business management education.

By addressing the challenges of today’s fast-paced and increasingly complex business environment, programs foster leadership and strategic thinking and help participants maximise their personal and professional capabilities.

The Graduate School of Business offers a full range of postgraduate business management programs and is one of the longest standing providers of MBA education in Australia.

For corporate and government clients seeking educational pathways for their executives and senior staff, the School provides tailored workshops, courses and programs including MBA (Executive).

Key areas are:

» entrepreneurship and innovation
» leadership
» ethics
» project management
» corporate governance
» business modelling
» business strategy and strategic management
» organisational change.

SUPERVISOR TEAM LEADER TRAINING

Managing teams in the health and community services sector encompasses a wide range of technical, self-management, communication and interpersonal skills.

Successful team leaders need to have a depth of knowledge of the field in which they are leaders and managers. They also need to be lateral thinkers and have the ability to understand and interpret the reactions of people around them.

RMIT uses customised training models for organisations in the health and community services sector. These help to demonstrate participant’s capacity as a team leader, in recognising and developing their own management style in the context of organisation’s service and cultures and learning to reflect on the organisation’s decisions and processes. The programs highlight the importance and value of analysing and engaging with the organisation in the development of individual leadership styles in the context of the industry setting.

Recent industry partners have included:

» Victorian Department of Human Services including its regional areas
» Brotherhood of St Laurence
» Australian Community Support Organisation
» Villa Maria Community Services
» Mackillop Child and Family Services
» MacArthur Aged Care Services
» Norwood Association Inc
» Department of Justice, Courts and Tribunals;
» Child Protection (Youth Justice and Professional Development Unit); Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Project management

Project management skills are arguably the most useful and versatile skills an individual can have. Health and community projects such as program implementation and evaluation, relocation, facility upgrades and emergency management can all benefit from the application of project management skills.

RMIT’s School of Property, Construction and Project Management delivers a course accredited by Project Management Institute to postgraduates and is able to modify this to suit your organisation’s needs and environment.

Content ranges from an introduction to basic project management principles through to the development of advanced skills, and can focus on specific applications such as planning, workplace relations, risk management and quality. Individually defined goals can be targeted. Flexible content is partnered with diverse delivery arrangements, at RMIT or in the workplace, or a mixture of both over an intense or extended period of time. The course caters for a range of backgrounds and experience.

The course engages participants in learning through a variety of activities facilitated by staff from the School. Facilitators have a wealth of project management experience which includes international disaster recovery and implementation of online interventions.

RMIT’s program is valued by industry because of our personalised approach to course design and innovative delivery.
Mental health education and training

The World Health Organisation has advised there is no health without mental health. It is becoming increasingly important for all health and social service professionals to have knowledge and skills to deal with a range of mental health illnesses and conditions, ranging along the continuum from stress through to more serious states of illness in diagnosed mental health disorders.

RMIT incorporates mental health education into health programs in addition to educating specialist mental health professionals. The University's nursing education has higher than average mental health content and mental health nurses are educated at post-graduate level.

Mental health is strong component of undergraduate and fourth year psychology studies and leads into post-graduate training programs in clinical psychology. Professional education in disability studies, chiropractic, osteopathy and Chinese medicine provides a detailed understanding of mental health issues and skills to refer appropriately.

Workplace health and safety

RMIT has extensive experience in delivering occupational health and safety training to industry, working with organisations across the health, utilities, hospitality, transport and manufacturing sectors.

The University regularly conducts practical five-day and one-day OHS training programs at the City campus. These skills-oriented programs are designed to provide health and safety representatives, managers and supervisors with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure the health and safety of those within their workplace.

The programs inform participants about the latest requirements under OHS legislation, and provide advice about how to communicate effectively and resolve conflict in the workplace regarding health and safety matters.

RMIT also delivers training to organisations on the important elements of mental health. This is delivered in a series of two or three-day workshops in an organisation’s workplace. The University also offers a certificate program in alcohol and other drugs.

The University conducts research into a number of mental health areas as well as social research on factors that influence mental health, such as family violence, health related illnesses, homelessness, disability, and economic hardship.

RMIT expertise is shared with the broader health community through advisory positions held by academic staff on a range of state and national mental health boards.

The five-day and one-day programs can be delivered onsite, subject to numbers.

RMIT also offers a Certificate IV and Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety, as well as other more advanced programs. From working with an industry partner RMIT developed and introduced a fast-track program for the Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety in 2007. In 2009, RMIT introduced a fast-track Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety.

RMIT’s OHS training can be made available directly to organisations and customised to meet their specific workplace needs.

Human Rights Education

Human rights is a critical global issue that concerns all cultures and nations. In Australia it has been strongly linked to Indigenous issues but its relevance and application is universal.

RMIT is playing an essential role in human rights education through the Australian Centre for Human Rights Education (ACHRE).

Established in 2007, the centre develops strategies and tools for applying human rights. And the centre’s education and research partnerships with government and community organisations works to build a culture and practice of human rights.

RMIT has developed two postgraduate programs that focus on the broad application of human rights. They are:

- Graduate Certificate in Applied Human Rights
- Graduate Diploma in Applied Human Rights

The programs are available online and attract national and international students.

A course in Indigenous human rights, developed by Aboriginal leaders, is offered as part of both these programs.

In 2009 the Department of Human Services offered scholarships for 16 of its officers to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Applied Human Rights as a way of raising awareness of human rights in that department.

ACHRE has projects underway with a number of organisations including:

- Indigenous Leadership Network Victoria
- State Services Authority
- Victorian Local Governance Association
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Human Services
- Victoria Police
- Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres
RMIT has a proven track record of working with partner organisations to upskill their workforce, using e-learning resources and training expertise to develop customised and flexible delivery modes to meet different needs.

Health programs or training in specific skill sets are valuable in developing the existing workforce and can be delivered and customised to suit individuals and organisations. For example, competencies such as infection control, occupational health and safety or high level competencies from the Diploma of Nursing can be delivered as part of continuing professional development or workforce upskilling.

RMIT’s range of health and medical vocational education and training programs includes:

- Nursing
- Medical administration/pathology collection
- Laboratory technology
- Allied health assistant
- Health services assistance
- Practice management
- Dental health/technology

Our work with industry partners includes:

**Transfield Holdings:**
Occupational health and safety training is delivered to employees across Australia and New Zealand through a customised online learning program combined with intensive residential workshops.

**Luxottica:**
Optical dispensing training is being delivered to employees across Australia and New Zealand with a customised online presence and an integrated work-based training model.

**Baker Heart Research Institute and Deakin University:**
Customised training in blood collection is provided for research scientists.

**Australian Defence Forces:**
RMIT has worked with the ADF to train military personnel in the basic medical assistant course and Certificate IV in Nursing.

**Dental Practice Board of Victoria:**
RMIT is a registered provider of continuing professional development for Board members.

**Austin Health:**
A tailored course in Medication Administration is provided for Division 2 nurses.
A tailored traineeship for Certificate III in Health Services Assistance.

**Aged care service providers:**
Training is provided to upskill aged care workers to Division 2 nurses.

As a dual sector University, RMIT is able to provide students with a pathway through to higher education qualifications.

**NURSE EDUCATION**
RMIT has delivered nurse education for over thirty years and offers a comprehensive suite of nurse training and education that starts at traineeship level and extends from Certificate IV (Division I) through to post-graduate level programs.
National solutions for Luxottica

RMIT is the primary provider of optical training to one of the world’s largest manufacturers of prescription frames. The Italian-based Luxottica company designs, manufactures and distributes prescription frames and sunglasses to more than 130 countries and has a global workforce of 52,000 employees.

In 2008 RMIT established a partnership with Luxottica to construct a range of training delivery models that ensured all of Luxottica’s needs were taken into account. The result has been a customised, nationally recognised, two-year Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing (and optical technology) that replaces a four-year apprenticeship. It is delivered to employees across Australia and New Zealand.

The optical dispensing program was designed with working students in mind. Many of the 550 Luxottica staff participating in the program work full-time in the industry. The course combines a large online learning component with an emphasis on workplace skills and practical work-based assessment.

Luxottica staff has access to the online environment for self-assessment to evaluate their understanding of a topic or unit and the opportunity to have recognition of prior learning. This is combined with intensive, week-long workshops.

Program manager Jason Patten from the School of Life and Physical Sciences said, ‘RMIT’s training is responsive to industry needs and is flexible and innovative. This is a rapidly changing industry, particularly in terms of technology, and RMIT’s program reflects this.

“We provide Luxottica staff with knowledge and a framework for skills development. Combined with employer mentoring, students refine and develop their skills using the flexible online environment so they can learn when and how they want.’

RMIT and Luxottica are set to become the largest trainer in optical dispensing in the Asia-Pacific region.

From left, standing: Optical Dispensing Program Coordinator, John Van Braam; Head of the School of Life and Physical Sciences, Graham Timmins; Luxottica’s Liana Reinhardt and Michael Abulencia. Seated: RMIT’s Jason Patten and Diane Bates.
With state-of-the-art infrastructure and equipment at its Bundoora Campus, RMIT is a national leader and provider of choice in medical science education.

It achieves excellence through innovation, collaboration with industry, government and community, and a multidisciplinary approach to research closely integrated with student learning.

RMIT medical sciences graduates have some of the highest employment rates in Australia. Six different programs are designed with industry input, ensuring they are up to date, directly relevant to specific employment demands, and include a rigorous work placement program. Many are accredited by key professional organisations, making them the best of their type in Australia.

Postgraduate programs include the Master of Applied Science (Medical Science) offered as an online distance learning program. This coursework program has been internationally accredited by the UK Institute of Biomedical Science and is acclaimed by graduates for its vocationally relevant content and the inclusion of science and management components.

The School also supports continuing professional development for medical scientists. Twenty participants from across Australia, as well as one from Singapore, recently attended an Advanced Transfusion Science workshop conducted by the School’s Haematology Unit. Industry sponsorship was provided by CSL IH Group and Ortho Clinical Diagnostics.

This was the first time an advanced workshop had been conducted in transfusion science and was made possible by support provided by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, which supplied the rare blood samples used in the workshop and the expertise of the senior scientist in reference serology.

The Director of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Victorian Clinical Genetics Service participated on the last day of the workshop when molecular aspects of blood group genes were covered, and participants had the opportunity to determine their own Duffy blood group genotype using real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Shaping the medical sciences workforce of the future

RMIT Nuclear Medicine Honours student, Janelle Linton
A Snapshot of RMIT Education

RMIT offers more than 600 higher education and TAFE programs. A selection of program areas of relevance to the health and community services sector is listed below.

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For further information on individual programs, please contact RMIT Info Corner or the relevant School.

For workforce development, please telephone RMIT Global Business Development on +61 3 9925 5110. We will organise for you to meet with the right RMIT staff to discuss training solutions for your organisation.
Please direct enquiries to
Global Business Development,
RMIT University.

Our Industry Engagement team will connect you to the relevant academic staff and professional services.
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