



# Giving Practice Nursing a Go: A Student Perspective

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Information / Inspiration / Innovation**

**.....connecting the dots.....**

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# The Partnership

- Southern Cross University – North Coast NSW
- Northern Rivers General Practice Network – North Coast NSW






# The Plan

- “General practice is an important learning environment for nursing students, as it provides an opportunity to participate actively in the delivery of primary care” Levett Jones and Bourgeois, 2007, p190
  - Provide Southern Cross University undergraduate students with an opportunity to experience practice nursing
  - Emulate the achievements of WA while providing a facilitator-supported student experience
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# The Process

- Stakeholder planning meetings
  - Student expressions of interest
  - Recruitment of general practices / aboriginal medical services
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# The Program

- Student orientation
    - Practice nursing
    - The individual host general practice
  - Orientation resource packs distributed to students
  - 2 Week placement facilitated by Clinical Teacher
  - Students supported onsite by preceptors
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# The Performance

- Student Evaluations
- Overall, the educational opportunities provided by my placement were:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4	5 Excellent / Very relevant
			x 3	x 1

- The variety of experiences provided during my placement were:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4	5 Excellent / Very relevant
		x 1	x 3	

- The placement was relevant to my nursing studies:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4	5 Excellent / Very relevant
			x 2	x 2



# The Performance

- Student Evaluations

**The most valuable learning experience during my placement was:**

*Outreach*

*Learning about GP nursing*

*Being able to experience the difference of hospital nursing and GP nursing*

*Outreach program at Tabulum*

**The least valuable learning experience during my placement was:**

*The drive to Tenterfield*

*Driving to Tenterfield! Time wasting in general*

*There wasn't any, as everything was an experience no matter if it was repetitive.*





# The Performance

- Student Evaluations
- The placement assisted me in completing my learning objectives for my assessment:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4 x 3	5 Excellent / Very relevant x 1
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- The placement has improved my understanding of the role of a nurse in General Practice:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4 x 3	5 Excellent / Very relevant x 1
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- The placement has improved my knowledge of health prevention and patient education:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4 x 3	5 Excellent / Very relevant x 1
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- The placement provided me with an opportunity to work with other health care professionals in a community setting:

1 Poor / Not relevant	2	3	4 x 3	5 Excellent / Very relevant x 1
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# The Performance

**Please list any other educational or clinical experiences you would have liked to be involved in during your placement:**

*More midwifery (though I say that every placement). Bigger practices would have been beneficial, similar to G MC.*

*There was a lot, loads of blood taking, and I would have like to been okayed to do this by the Uni, as everyone at the practice was comfortable with me doing it.*






# The Performance

What else did students say?

- The orientation prepared them for the prac as did the general practice induction.
- They were made welcome by the staff at the practice and felt supported and guided by their preceptor and the Southern Cross University Clinical Teacher.
- The majority (60%) believe practice nursing should be a 2<sup>nd</sup> year prac.
- 60% would consider a career in general practice and another felt they would take it up “later in life”.
- They are taking away valuable and transferable skills
  - *Preventative care*
  - *Continuity of care, working with kids, palpating bellies.*
  - *Communication skills, education*
  - *Education of patient. Ask questions.*



# The Progress

- Program is continuing in 2008 and 2009 and demand for places outstrips supply
  - More practices have committed to taking students
  - SCU and NRGPN are collaborating to provide preceptor education
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# The Professionals

- Levett-Jones, T., & Bourgeois, S. (2007). *The clinical placement. An essential guide for nursing students*. Sydney: Churchill Livingstone.





- Thank you!
- Questions?
- Please feel free to contact:  
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