

## **Teaching evidence-based practice to post-graduate health professionals in an online environment**

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EBP is a multi-disciplinary unit that is offered in a suite of graduate programs at VCP. The program is delivered online via MUSO and consists of a series of directed activities and readings with a structured moderated asynchronous discussion group as the interactive element of the unit. Participation in the online discussion is compulsory with a proportion of the marks for the unit allocated to this activity. Online tasks are completed twice weekly via online discussion board postings. This ensures students engage with the learning material, and assists them to stay on track with their learning schedule.

One key form of assessment is a journal club presentation in which students critically appraise a study relevant to their practice drawn from the contemporary scientific literature. Participation in this journal club may take the form of a traditional face-to-face model, a teleconference or a web conference using Murratech software. The journal club flexibility has meant that effective participation has been possible for students from all over Australia and to fit in with work, family and other commitments. Students have been provided with webcams and headsets so that they can use Skype and other technologies to interact outside the structured framework and on a 1-to-1 basis or in small groups. This has reduced the isolation of students and enhanced their experience of graduate study.

The key focus of this presentation will be on the development and refinement of the content and then the methods and technologies used in delivery and demonstrations of how these work. Evaluation of student experiences will be presented to demonstrate strengths of the unit as well as how this has informed ongoing development and modification.