

TERM 3, 2024

NEWSLETTER



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
TRAINING IN HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

www.connectngrow.edu.au



Want more information? Email schools@connectngrow.edu.au Phone 1300 283 662



Welcome, Term 3 Review

Thank you for your continued support of our programs as we work together to provide health pathways for our students. With Term 3 over, its the downward stretch to the end of the year!

Term 3 was a busy one for Connect 'n' Grow with many school expos and subject selection evenings in attendance as well as being a sponsor for the ACHPER Conference. It was great to see the keynote speaker having a health focus with "Future Health, Challenges and Opportunities". The presentation focused on what we are trying to achieve through our Programs with pathways into health qualifications and direct employment. Further information and a copy of the presentation can be found in this newsletter.

It is great to see so many of the Universities offering early and direct entry into health degrees. We are currently in conversation to see how we can collaborate more and provide information to you, and we have secured representatives to attend our Professional Developments days the end of term 4.

Queensland Health have announced their positions for the Deadly Start Program and many of these include rural and remote sites where we already offer our Program. We are working on developing Program Strategies to see how we can incorporate the Deadly Start Program into the schools. Information will be sent out for students to enrol once this has been developed. It is great to see Queensland Health supporting rural and remote areas in offering these opportunities to our students.

Term 4 there are no scheduled incursions, but you are able to book in any catch-up sessions if students missed these days. You can do this with the link from our website or by contacting training@connectngrow.edu.au.

We will shortly have the enrolment links out for students to enrol for next year, it is preferred to have students enrol before the end of the year to ensure they have access at the start of next year. If you would like to arrange an Expert Health Trainer to attend to assist with enrolments please get in contact.

I wish you all the best for term 4, it is a long one for our State Schools and look forward to seeing you all at the Professional Development days at the end of the term.



Nikki Bowes | Schools Relationship Manager
nikki.bowes@connectngrow.edu.au

Term 4 Reminders:

- A form will be sent out shortly for Schools to provide classes, teachers and estimate of student numbers for 2025. This will assist with our planning.
- Enrolment links for the Certificate II Programs will be sent mid Term 4
- Year 12 data to be submitted and finalised by 8th November
- Please ensure all SROT's are submitted to SROT course"

Industry Partnerships

Celebrating our industry partners providing School-Based Traineeships.

As we step into the final school term, it's important to highlight the important role of school-based traineeships in shaping the future of the health sector in Australia. These programs not only provide invaluable hands-on experience for students but also address the growing demand for skilled professionals in our healthcare system.

What Are School-Based Traineeships?

School-based traineeships allow students to combine their studies with practical work experience. These programs are designed for high school students, enabling them to earn a qualification while still in school. Typically, students engage in part-time work, often within local health services, hospitals, or community organizations, gaining exposure to various roles in the health sector.

Bridging the Skills Gap within the Healthcare Sector

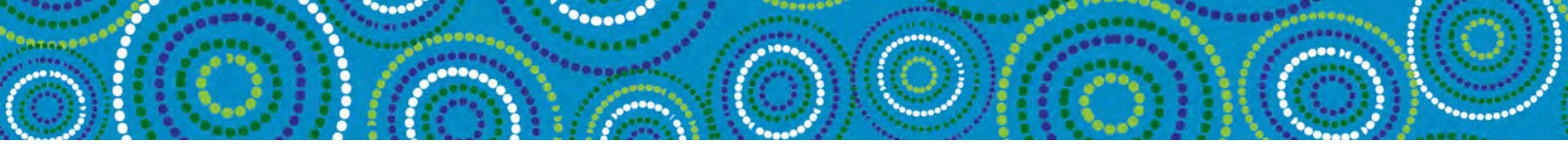
Australia's health sector is facing a significant skills shortage, particularly in areas like aged care, allied health, and community services. School-based traineeships play a critical role in bridging this gap. By providing students with early exposure to the industry, we cultivate a new generation of skilled professionals who are familiar with the demands and expectations of the workplace.

Benefits for Students

1. **Real-World Experience:** Students gain practical skills and knowledge that enhance their education, making them more competitive in the job market.



2. **Career Exploration:** Traineeships allow students to explore different career paths within health, helping them make informed decisions about their futures.
3. **Networking Opportunities:** Engaging with industry professionals fosters connections that can lead to mentorship and job opportunities post-graduation.
4. **Financial Support:** Many traineeships offer financial incentives, providing students with support during their studies.



Benefits for the Health Sector

1. **Workforce Development:** By investing in the next generation, health organizations can ensure a steady pipeline of skilled workers ready to meet future demands.
2. **Diversity and Fresh Perspectives:** Engaging young people from various backgrounds promotes diversity within the workforce, leading to more innovative solutions to health challenges.
3. **Increased Retention Rates:** Students who participate in traineeships are more likely to continue their education in health-related fields, improving retention rates in vital roles.

Industry collaborations Ahead

Connect 'n' Grow continue to work with potential industry partners to create traineeship pathways for our students in 2025. We recently attended the Care Expo in Brisbane and it was great to see our existing and many potential new partners there.

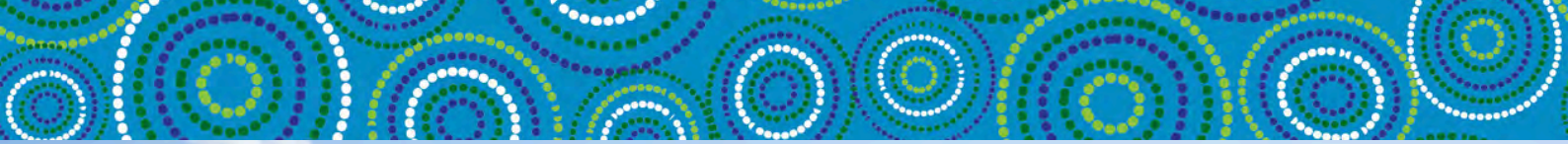
We are pleased to announce that the following new industry partners will be providing school-based traineeship positions for our students 2025.

- Estia Health
- Carinya Aged Care
- Complete Allied Health
- St Vincents Private Hospital
- Spinal Life Cairns

A special shout out to another new partner in Maroochydore- Pitter Patter Physio. Thank you Dr Clare MacFarlane!

Author:
David Milgrom | Industry Consultant





(L-R) VET in Schools Partnership Consultant, Andrew Tazelaar, students from St Patrick's College Shorncliffe, Teacher, Tim Birmingham, Expert Health Trainer (EHT) Matt Brown.

School in the Spotlight

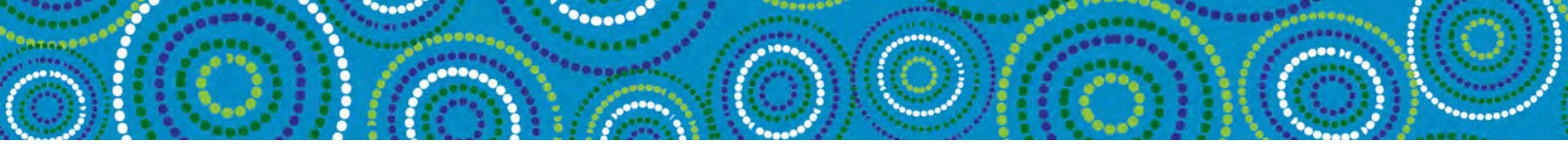
St Patrick's College Shorncliffe – Encouraging Boys to Enter the Healthcare Workforce

We're thrilled to spotlight St Patrick's College (Shorncliffe) for its proactive role in encouraging boys to pursue careers in healthcare, an industry where male representation remains significantly underrepresented. Our recent video, produced in partnership with the school, captures the unique pathways available to boys looking to enter the healthcare and community services industry.

The Need for Males in Healthcare:

As outlined by the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(AIHW\)](#), males make up only 26% of Australia's healthcare workforce, underscoring the significant gender imbalance within the field. While about 45% of medical practitioners are male, this drops to just 12% among registered nurses. Other critical areas, such as aged and disabled care, are seeing a slight increase in male representation, now at 23%. These statistics highlight an opportunity for young men to significantly impact healthcare roles traditionally occupied by women.

The push for more excellent male representation in healthcare is not just about balancing the scales—it's about providing diverse care perspectives that better serve our communities. St Patrick's College is helping to meet this need by equipping its students with the skills and qualifications required to pursue meaningful and essential careers in healthcare.



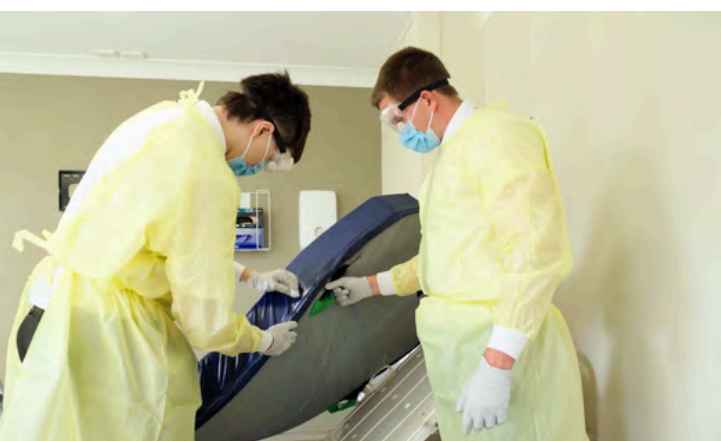
Discover how St Patrick's College is shaping the future of healthcare professionals by watching the video, which showcases Connect 'n' Grow's collaboration with the school and the real stories of the students involved. This is an opportunity for young men to step into a field that is both fulfilling and essential for the wellbeing of our society.

 **Watch the Video**

By completing both qualifications, students earn up to 8 QCE points while gaining practical experience that can lead to various career paths in healthcare, aged care, or further studies in health sciences.



Students from St Patrick's College currently completing their Health Program with their Expert Health Trainer (EHT) Matt Brown and Connect 'n' Grow.



Get in Touch

For more information on how your school can get involved or to explore the healthcare pathways available through our programs, please reach out to us today.

For SEQ Inquiries:

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Author:
Andrew Tazelaar | VET in Schools Partnership Consultant



Student in the Spotlight

Year 12 student gains early entry into Bachelor of Nursing at Sunshine Coast University.

Current year 12 student, Ruby from Unity College, has gained early entry into Bachelor of Nursing at Sunshine Coast University before finishing her 12th year of schooling.

She has successfully completed her Certificate II & III in Health Support Services with Connect 'n' Grow and has also finished her AIN. Ruby is currently spending the remaining weeks of her time at school completing paid work as an Assistant Nurse and finalising other certificate courses.

Ruby has undertaken an alternate route with her senior schooling, whereby she has entered tertiary education via a non-ATAR pathway. This is not the standard process students generally take when aspiring to go to university but is a viable alternate pathway. Ruby has worked diligently with the support of her teachers, peers, family and industry employers to not only gain a university position early, but also secure meaningful employment and paid work whilst still at school. She has demonstrated true resilience during her journey, setting small goals along the way to achieve her big milestone.

Ruby is an inspiration to many young people today, proving that when the vision is clear and the hard-working ethic is engrained, there will always be a pathway to establish your dreams.

Author:
Nicole Parish | VET in Schools Partnership Consultant/EHT

End of Year Summer School Intensive Program

We are thrilled to offer students in Years 10, 11, and 12 an exciting opportunity to jumpstart their healthcare careers through our 'Start Your Career in Health' Summer School Intensive Program, which is available across four Health Hubs in Queensland: Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Cairns, and Townsville.

This two-week intensive workshop provides valuable skills and knowledge, culminating in the nationally recognised HLT23221 Certificate II in Health Support Services. Students will not only gain practical healthcare skills but also have the chance to accrue up to 4 QCE credits without disrupting their regular school commitments.

Program Details:

Dates:

Programs run in late Term 4, with specific dates differing by location

Cost:

Fully covered by VETiS funding. Students who are not eligible for VETiS funding or have already used it, the price is \$998.00 per person.

Study Mode:

A flexible mix of onsite and online learning


Program Outcomes:

HLT23221 Certificate II in Health Support Services qualification and up to 4 QCE points.

Locations, dates and register link:

- [Brisbane Health Hub \(Windsor\): 2nd – 13th December 2024](#)
- [Sunshine Coast Health Hub: 2nd December – 13th December 2024](#)
- [Cairns Health Hub: 2nd December – 13th December 2024](#)
- [Townsville Health Hub: 25th November – 6th December 2024](#)

Get in Touch to Learn More:

 schools@connectngrow.edu.au
1300 283 662



Student Requirements:

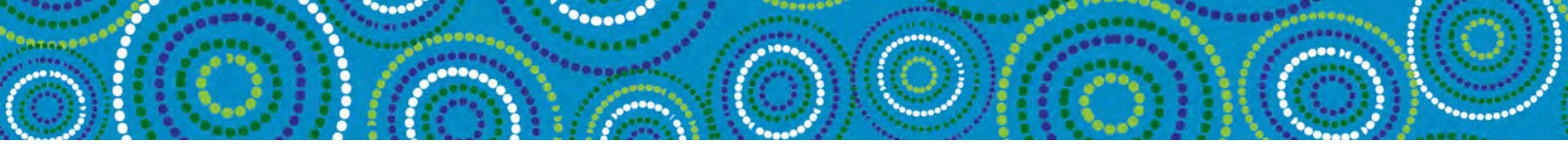
- Must be an active enrolment in Years 10, 11, or 12 in 2024.
- Must attend compulsory workshops at the designated Health Hub.
- Must have a reliable laptop and internet access for online learning.

By completing this intensive program, students will be better prepared for a future in the healthcare industry, with real qualifications and valuable credits to show for it.

Please view the following flyers for more information:

- [Start Your Career in Health - Brisbane \(Windsor\) Summer School Intensive Program](#)
- [Start Your Career in Health - Sunshine Coast Summer School Intensive Program](#)
- [Start Your Career in Health - Cairns Summer School Intensive Program](#)
- [Start Your Career in Health - Townsville Summer School Intensive Program](#)

This is a fantastic opportunity for students passionate about healthcare, so don't miss out!



Deadly Start Graduation

This term, we celebrated the success of our 2023/24 School-based Traineeships – and our first cohort of Deadly Start students successfully complete the program. Celebrations were held across the state recognising the hard work and dedication of the past 18 months as students complete their HLT33115 Certificate III in Health Services Assistance or HLT33021 Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance as well as 375 hours on the job training with Queensland Health.

School-based Trainee at Mackay Hospital Domonik Battersby felt very “at home” working in the paediatric department at Mackay Base Hospital, in addition to spending time in the surgical unit, wound clinic, and emergency department.

“This traineeship has been a real stepping stone for me to realising my dream,”

Domonik said. “I’ve worked different shifts, seen many different aspects of working in

healthcare and heard some really interesting stories; it’s helped finalise my decision to work towards being a nurse,” he said.

School-based Trainee Charlotte from Caboolture Health Hub was also recognized for her hard work and dedication to her role as she was awarded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year and School-based Trainee of the Year for the North Coast Region at the 2024 Queensland Training Awards. Charlotte says the “Deadly Start Program has given me another pathway and has helped me personally find what I want to do after High School. It is amazing to connect with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students from other schools and I have made many more friendships throughout this traineeship. It also teaches you a lot of new things you wouldn’t learn in a School.”

We are looking forward to celebrating the remaining cohorts who will graduate from their School-based Traineeships in the coming weeks. We also thank Queensland Health, Seed Foundation and Seed Employment on their partnerships with making this program happen.

Stay tuned for further information on 2025 Deadly Start Positions.

Author:
Rachel Knight | Head of the Corporate Services



ACHPER Conference

The Growth and Development team were fortunate to attend this year's ACHPER conference in Brisbane.

ACHPER is the leading professional association representing teachers and other professionals working in the fields of health and physical education. This year, over 300 HPE teachers attended, and Connect 'n' Grow had the opportunity to sponsor the event and set up a display to promote our programs to the attendees. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr Joe Occhino, Assistant Director-General, Queensland Health. The topic was "Future Health, Challenges and Opportunities"

(see a copy of the presentation [here](#)).

Dr Occhino provided us with a stark reality check on the future of our healthcare system, given the challenges it currently faces, including a reduced workforce, an aging population, an increase in chronic and lifestyle diseases, and a rise in the rate of activity.



Carra Bolard and Nikki Bowes at the ACHPER Conference in Brisbane.

For the Connect 'n' Grow team present, this served as a catalyst for even greater motivation to promote our Health Certificates in schools. This is one way that we, both as individuals and as a corporation, can help alleviate some of the pressure on our healthcare system and ensure that care will be available to us as we age.

We look forward to our 2025 expansion into new partnering schools, Health Campus Training, Holiday Programs, and Deadly Start as part of the solution to relieve pressure on our healthcare system and ensure a brighter future for those in need of these essential services.

Author:
Carra Bolard | VET in Schools Partnership Consultant



A glimpse of Dr Joe Occhino's "Future Health, Challenges and Opportunities" presentation, given at the ACHPER Conference.

TERM 4, 2024 TEACHER PD DAY REGISTER NOW



CAIRNS
25TH NOV

TOWNSVILLE
26TH NOV

MACKAY
27TH NOV

BRISBANE
28TH NOV

SUNSHINE COAST
29TH NOV

Join us for one of our end-of-year teacher professional development days!

Don't miss the chance to attend one of our Term 4 "End of Year Teacher Professional Development Days," where you'll have the unique opportunity to network with fellow Health Trainers from within your region. These sessions are essential for meeting your trainer and assessor requirements and provide a fantastic space to engage with program deliverers from other schools, exchange ideas, and strengthen your connections within the Connect 'n' Grow community.

These are in-person-only events—there will be no live-streaming or recordings available. We recommend finalising your PD leave with your school as soon as possible to ensure your attendance and fulfil your Industry and VET Currency requirements.

Event Details:

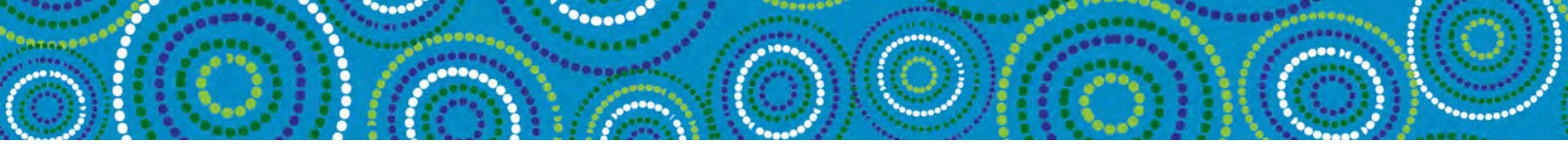
We're excited to bring these PD events to five regions across Queensland—Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Brisbane, and the Sunshine Coast—between November 25th and 29th. Events will begin at 8:30 am., with the official program kicking off at 9:00 am. and concluding by 3:00 pm.

Register for the Teacher PD in your region:

- [Cairns PD Event - Monday, 25th November](#)
- [Townsville PD Event - Tuesday, 26th November](#)
- [Mackay PD Event - Wednesday, 27th November](#)
- [Brisbane PD Event - Thursday, 28th November](#)
- [Sunshine Coast PD Event - Friday, 29th November](#)

Can't attend? Please get in touch with our Compliance Team at compliance@connectngrow.edu.au to explore alternative arrangements. For any event-specific questions, you can contact Nikki Bowes, our Schools Relationships Manager, at nikki.bowes@connectngrow.edu.au, or call us at **1300 283 662**.

We look forward to seeing you there! Stay tuned for more updates as the event approaches.



Deadly Start School-Based Traineeship Program

Applications for the Deadly Start School-Based Traineeship Program for 2025-2026 have now open.

Partnering with Queensland Health, Connect 'n' Grow (as the Registered Training Provider), in partnership with Seed Foundation Australia and Seed Employment (GTO) is offering culturally supportive pathways for your future Year 11 students to kickstart their careers in health.

By completing the **HLT23221 Certificate II in Health Support Services** during the first six months, students then become eligible to progress into a hospital-based traineeship and earn while they learn, working towards their **HLT33115 Certificate III in Health Services Assistance**.

Positions will be offered at the following Hospital and Health Service (HHS) locations for the training component on a 1-day-per-week basis:

- Caboolture
- Cairns
- Cleveland
- Ipswich
- Logan
- Mango Hill
- Mooloolaba
- Rockhampton
- Southport
- Sunnybank
- Toowoomba
- Townsville
- Windsor

The program in Mackay and Mount Isa will be running in block and there are a number of other locations in rural and remote areas currently in discussion on the delivery.

For more information:



traineeships@connectngrow.edu.au
1300 283 662



START YOUR CAREER IN HEALTH

2025 HEALTH CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Townsville | Mooloolaba | Windsor | Southport | Rockhampton

HLT23221 CERTIFICATE II IN HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

1 SEMESTER PROGRAM

HLT23221 Certificate II in Health Support Services completed in Semester 1 (2025) at a Connect 'n' Grow campus – Townsville | Mooloolaba | Windsor | Southport.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

VETiS funding eligibility

Senior high school students who are Australian or New Zealand Citizens or permanent residents, or temporary residents with the necessary visa, are eligible to utilise VETiS funding. Subsidised by the Queensland Government under the Vocational Education and Training in Schools Program (VETiS). Students are eligible to use VETiS funding to complete one program only. For more information on VETiS funding and eligibility, please visit desbt.qld.gov.au/training/providers/funded/vetis.

FEE FOR SERVICE

Fee-for-Service (not government subsidised)

Students who are not eligible for VETiS funding or who have already utilised their VETiS funding entitlement are still eligible to complete this course, the cost for those students is \$998.00.



What do students achieve

- HLT23221 Certificate II in Health Support Services
- This course may also contribute to your Senior Certificate of Education
- Nationally recognised qualifications
(Up to date COVID19 & other vaccinations required if you are completing a placement)



Skills acquired

- Conduct basic health checks
- Infection Control
- Customer service
- Working with diverse people
- Communication skills
- Organising daily work schedules
- Working in teams
- Workplace health & safety
- Routine stock maintenance
- Bed making



Employment

Health Support Services

Reflects the role of workers who provide support for the effective functioning of health services. At this level workers complete tasks under supervision involving known routines and procedure or compete routine and variable tasks in collaboration with others in a team environment.



Pathways to further study

- HLT33115 Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
- HLT33021 Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
- CHC32015 Certificate III in Community Services
- CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support

Want more information? Email schools@connectngrow.edu.au Phone 1300 283 662



PROGRAM DELIVERY

Term 1, 2025 - Week 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

Term 2, 2025 - Week 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

Townsville Campus Wednesday

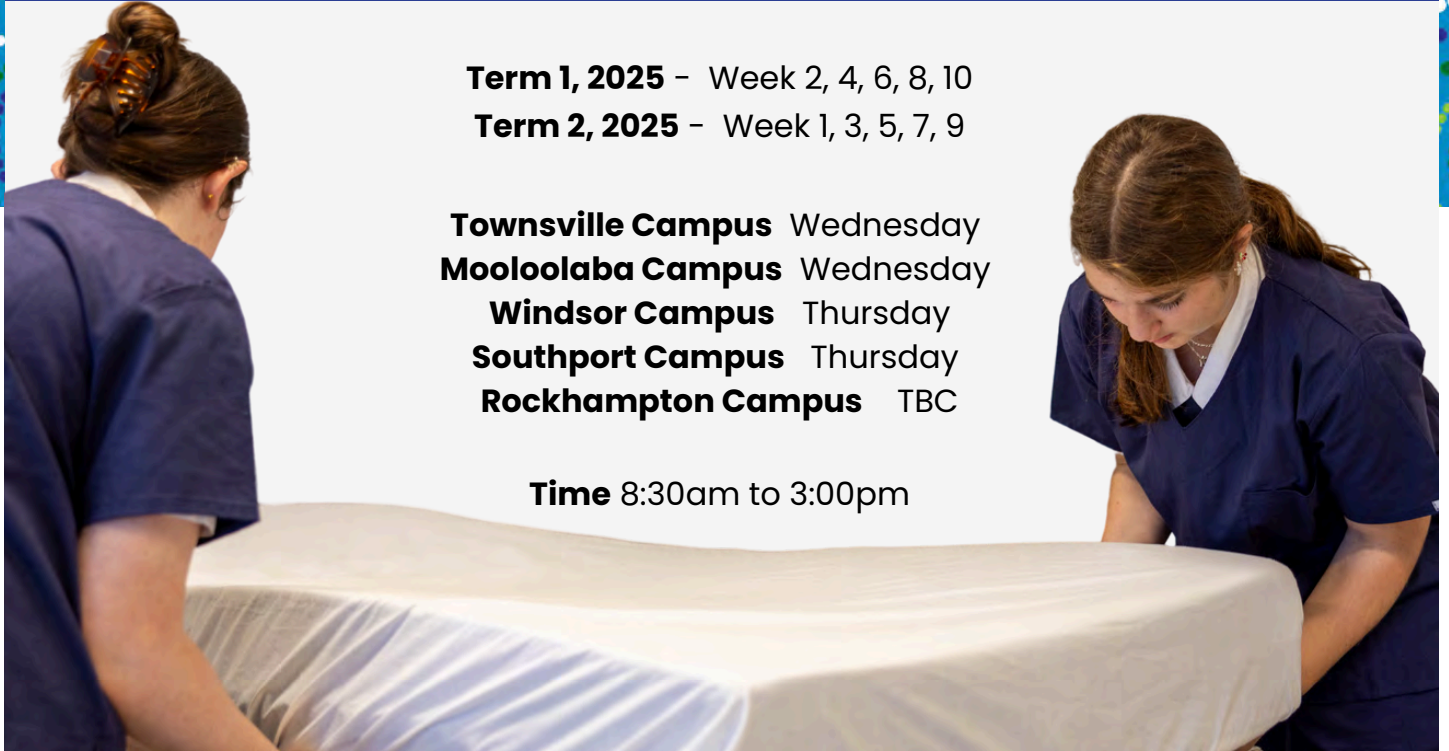
Mooloolaba Campus Wednesday

Windsor Campus Thursday

Southport Campus Thursday

Rockhampton Campus TBC

Time 8:30am to 3:00pm



Program ideally suited to students who:

- ✓ Students in Year 10 – Year 12 who are interested in a career within the Healthcare sector.
- ✓ Students who are on a ATAR pathway that want to gain the skills and qualifications to support their future career in a Healthcare profession.
- ✓ Students who don't have access to this Health Career program as part of their school curriculum.
- ✓ Students who enjoy making new friends from secondary schools from around the region.



**Running of program depends on meeting minimum enrolment numbers*

To register interest scan the QR Code



Want more information? Email schools@connectngrow.edu.au Phone 1300 283 662



WHERE CAN YOUR CAREER TAKE YOU?



Administration



Allied Health



Business Administration and Technology



Dental Assistance



Health Services Assistance



Health Services operations



Medical Officer



Midwifery



Nursing



Paramedic



Pathology Assistance



Personal Care and Disability Support

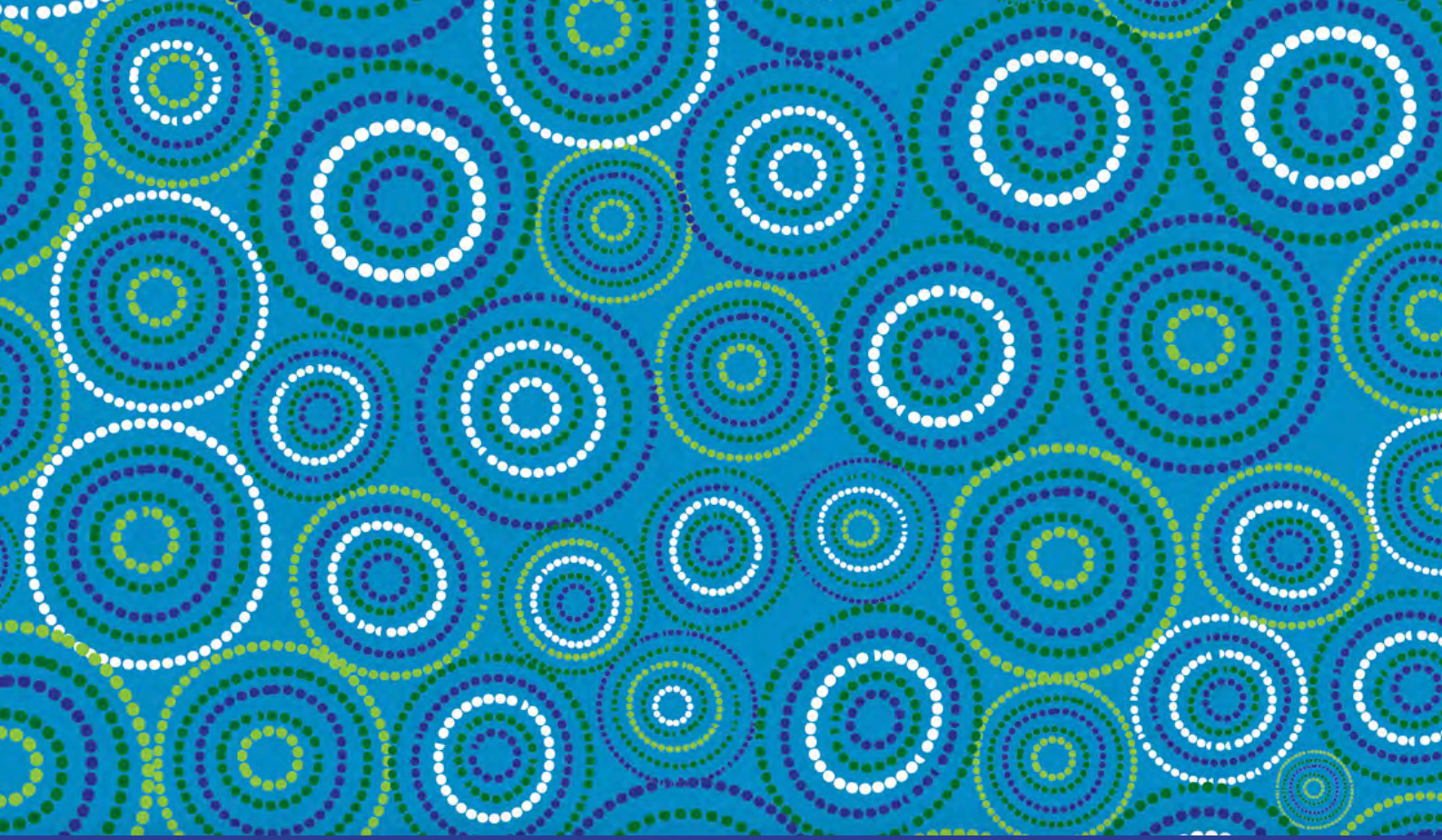


Are you interested in learning more about health career pathways? Visit www.cyohealthcareer.com.au/career-pathways/ or scan the QR Code to find out more



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