

Information for Maternal and Child Health nursing applicants

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) nursing is taught at two Victorian universities. These are RMIT University and La Trobe University.

An information pack for applicants is available from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) MCH website

<https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/children-youth-family/maternal-and-child-health-children-0-6-years>

The information pack contains the following documents:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for MCH nursing courses at La Trobe University, and RMIT University;
- The Expression of Interest (EOI) form to use when applying for a clinical place;
- A list of Local Government Areas (LGAs) offering clinical places.

You can apply online directly to either or both universities from early August. We encourage you to apply early to avoid disappointment.

Clinical placement information

To complete the Graduate Diploma and qualify as an MCH nurse, you must complete MCH nursing studies which includes 300+ hours of clinical placement. This includes 200 hours in an MCH setting and the remainder in various community services.

Your University offer is conditional on you being able to arrange a clinical place. Likewise, a clinical placement for MCH nursing is 'provisional' until you are successfully enrolled in an MCH university course.

How to Arrange an MCH clinical place

- Step 1. Download the Expression of Interest (EOI) form from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) website (see above).
- Step 2. Complete the EOI form and send it to the MCH coordinator at your preferred LGA, along with a copy of your Curriculum Vitae and a cover letter. Please ensure your application is fully completed so it can be considered.
- Step 3. Please apply to one or two councils, but no more than three, in the first instance.
- Step 4. You are encouraged to submit your EOI form promptly as places are limited.

- Step 5. MCH Coordinators can receive numerous EOI and may review your application at two key times: approximately mid Sept and late Oct. Processes will be determined by local areas, some will consider your application and CV, others may also speak with you on the phone or in an interview.
- Step 6. You will be advised if your Expression of interest is successful or not shortly after the above review times (i.e. early October and mid-November). Please be patient as you wait for feedback.
- Step 7. If successful, you are required to accept the provisional clinical MCH place within 5 working days of it being sent. Please also advise your preferred university/ies of your acceptance of a clinical place promptly. If you have applied to more than one LGA, please advise them if you have accepted a place elsewhere.
- Step 8. If you don't obtain a provisional clinical MCH place in the initial end of Sept round, you can submit applications to other LGAs (maximum of 3) for the final round in early October. *(Outcomes of this round will be advised mid-November)*
- Step 9. University places will be finalised late November. You may receive offers from La Trobe University or RMIT University or both, depending on your application and available places.
- Step 10. If you apply to both universities and receive offers for both you will need to decide which university you wish to attend and advise the universities and LGA.
- Step 12. We aim to have university enrolments and confirmation of clinical places finalised by early December. Orientation to University begins early December for students enrolling in summer courses.

Note: Maternal and Child Health council services have heavy client loads and offer MCH clinical places to MCH students as a courtesy and contribution to the MCH profession. Please be mindful that the core business for MCH services is service delivery to increasingly complex and vulnerable families. Obtaining a clinical place is a privilege.

Expectations / Responsibilities

Universities

1. Refer prospective applicants to MAV site for Information pack and MCH course FAQs.
2. Be a resource for LGAs and prospective students regarding additional questions about MCH studies and university processes.
3. Assess applications for study re qualifications, experience, work experience & other requirements.
4. Good communication with students, LGAs, DET and MAV.
5. Timely confirmation to students and LGAs of university offers.
6. Ensure University-LGA organisational agreement is maintained.
7. Address any clinical concerns with students and municipalities as early as possible.

Applicants / Students

1. Send EOI to LGA/s (maximum of 3).
2. Submit applications to universities early (from early August to September).
3. Follow the timelines re EOI for prospective clinical places and university applications.
4. Timely confirmation of university enrolment and clinical place to LGA and university.
5. Good communication with LGAs and universities.
6. Demonstrate commitment to clinical placement.

MCH Services

1. Refer prospective applicants to MAV site for information pack.
2. Acknowledge receipt of applicants' EOI.
3. Notify applicants if limited places are available and the LGA is unlikely to offer a clinical place.
4. Review applicants' EOI at two time points (by 30 September & 10 November).
5. Timely advice to students and unis of applicants accepted for clinical places, subject to enrolment in university (by 30 September & 10 November).
6. Ensure University-LGA organisational agreement is maintained.
7. Address any clinical concerns with students and universities as early as possible.