**Guidelines for Local Government Areas - MCH Clinical Placements**

**Background**

The process for considering applications for MCH clinical places was introduced following consultation between Victorian Local Government Areas (LGAs), La Trobe, and RMIT universities. It aimed to meet the needs of applicants, the LGAs that offer clinical places, and the universities that provide courses of study.

On reviewing the application process, it was agreed that some LGAs prefer the flexibility of direct contact from applicants and ad-hoc offers throughout the year. Other LGAs appreciate the more structured approach, with applicants being considered and placements offered as a group. This difference in opinion seems to relate to the size of the LGA and the number of applicants to be considered.

The suggested timeline enables more structure for those who prefer that; however, it also accommodates the needs of MCH coordinators and applicants, who may need to work outside of this process.

**Key contacts**

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| **Dr Catina Adams**  Course coordinator,  Child, Family & Community Nursing  La Trobe University  School of Nursing and Midwifery  Bundoora 3086  Tel: 0403 550 935  [catina.adams@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:catina.adams@latrobe.edu.au) | **Dr Leanne Sheeran**  Program manager,  Child & Family Nursing  School of Health & Biomedical Sciences  RMIT University  Bundoora 3083  Tel: 9925 7445  [Leanne.sheeran@rmit.edu.au](mailto:Leanne.sheeran@rmit.edu.au) | **Leola Moore-Coulson**  Course coordinator  Child and Family Health Nursing  Institute of Health and  Wellbeing  Federation University  Berwick 3806  Tel: 8768 5527  [l.moorecoulson@federation.edu.au](mailto:l.moorecoulson@federation.edu.au) |

**Timeline – MCH student placement applications**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Activity** | **Note** |
| **June** | Universities to review selection and enrolment timeline and documentation. Forms updated.  LGA to provide updated numbers of clinical places for 2026 / 2027 |  |
| **July** | Application procedure and forms available @ MAV for students to download:  https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/children-youth-family/maternal-and-child-health-children-0-6-years/maternal-and-child-health-resources | Universities & LGAs to refer students to MAV site |
| **Aug** | University Open Days.  Students can apply directly to more than one university and lodge an Expression of Interest (EOI) for clinical placement with a maximum of 3 LGAs, in the first instance. | Applications open from the beginning of August |
| **Aug - Dec** | Universities make conditional offers to applicants - conditional on applicants providing evidence of a clinical place.  Timely applications close on 1st November.  All universities may accept late applications if places are available. |  |
| **Aug - Dec** | LGAs may offer clinical places during this time. LGAs to notify applicants and students to notify universities if a clinical place is confirmed. Universities can then confirm the course offer. |  |
| **Dec** | Final review of timely applicants by LGAs  **By 1st December** - Advise applicants of an offer of a clinical place. LGAs to advise universities of clinical place offers made to students.  LGAs to advise universities of any remaining clinical places.  Universities will advise qualified applicants if clinical places are still available. |  |
| **First week Dec** | Student clinical places confirmed.  University enrolment confirmed. |  |
| **Feb** | All universities have preclinical requirements before students can begin MCH placements – immunisation, WWC, Fit-to-Work  RMIT – mid-Feb Early Start |  |
| **March** | La Trobe and Federation – classes start |  |
| **April** | Students at all universities may begin MCH clinical placements |  |

**Responding to applications for MCH clinical places - Procedure**

1. Update the Clinical Place Availability Table included on the MAV website.

Please note:

* Full-time students will need 30 days of MCH placement.
* Part-time RMIT students part-time will need 3 days of MCH placement in their first year and 27 days of MCH placement in their second year of study.
* Part-time Federation and La Trobe students will need 15 days of MCH placement in each of two years.

2. Universities have 2 intakes – Semester 1 (February/March) and Semester 2 (July)

3. Refer applicants for clinical places to the MAV site where they can download an Applicant Information Pack and Expression of Interest (EOI) form.

4. Ask applicants to send you an EOI form and their CV.

5. Consider putting a statement on your Council website to refer applicants to the MAV site.

6. Save EOIs in a folder until the review date. Early offers may be made before the review date.

7. Review applications using the EOI and CV. Please allow extra time if you choose to interview applicants.

8. Advise successful applicants that they have a clinical place, subject to university enrolment.

9. Advise universities of the applicants offered provisional clinical places (subject to university MCH enrolment). Advise if any further places may be available or when capacity is reached.

10. Review the timeline to check when university applications will be finalised.

11. Contact the university coordinators if you have any questions.

**Expectations / Responsibilities**

**Universities**

1. Refer prospective applicants to the MAV site for the 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, i.e., qualifications, experience, work experience & other requirements.
4. Effectively communicate with students, LGAs, DH and MAV.
5. Timely confirmation to students of university offers.
6. Ensure the University-LGA organisational agreement is maintained.
7. Address clinical concerns with students and LGAs as early as possible.

**Applicants / Students**

1. Send the EOI to the LGAs (maximum of 3).
2. Submit applications to universities early (from early August to September).
3. Follow the timelines regarding EOI for prospective clinical places and university applications.
4. Timely confirmation of university enrolment and clinical place to LGAs and the university.
5. Advise LGAs if they wish to withdraw their EOI.
6. Good communication with LGAs and universities.

**LGA MCH services**

1. Refer prospective applicants to the MAV site for the information pack.
2. Acknowledge receipt of the applicant’s EOI.
3. Notify applicants if the LGA is unlikely to offer a clinical place.
4. Review the applicant’s EOI.
5. Timely advice to students and universities of applicants accepted for clinical places, subject to enrolment in a university.
6. Ensure the University-LGA organisational agreement is maintained.
7. Address clinical concerns with students and universities as early as possible.

**Proforma Letters**

These are provided for your convenience.

1. Proforma for advising **Clinical Places Unavailable** to student.

2. Proforma advising **Confirmation of Clinical Placement** to student (subject to enrolment at university).

3. Proforma for **University Notification** - advises all universities of clinical places offered, subject to enrolment at university.

Proforma 1

Council letterhead

**To student advising that a clinical place is unavailable.**

Dear (Name)

Thank you for your expression of interest in an MCH clinical place. We are sorry to inform you that we cannot assist with your application for clinical placement currently. If a place becomes available in a later round, we will be in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Name:

Position:

LGA:

Date:

Proforma 2

Council letterhead

**To student confirming an offer of a provisional clinical place.**

**Copy to be sent to the university coordinators**

Dear (Name)

Thank you for submitting an Expression of Interest form for an MCH clinical place. We confirm a provisional offer of clinical placement dated …………… to:

Applicant’s name:

Email:

Mobile:

Year/s in which placement is planned to occur (see University-specific requirements):

2026 2027

The university applied to:  Federation  La Trobe  RMIT

Planned study mode: Full time  Part time

This provisional clinical place is subject to you enrolling in MCH studies at a university.

*To secure this offer, you must notify the LGA of your acceptance in writing within five working days. Please also send a copy of your acceptance* to the universities to which you are applying.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Name:

Position:

LGA:

Date:

Proforma 3

Council letterhead

**University notification – summary form**

We can support the following applicants for clinical placement:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Clinical Year/s | | University Applied | | |
| Name | 2026 | 2027 | Federation | LTU | RMIT |
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We are unable to support placement for:

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| Name |
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Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Name:

Position:

LGA:

Date: