

# **Educating future community paramedics: an integrated approach**

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# Introduction

- † Contextual Drivers
- † Typical Paramedicine Curricula
- † La Trobe University Response
- † Our Curriculum
- † Future Plans
- † Questions



# Contextual Drivers

- † Ageing populations with more chronic disease presentations
- † Changing community expectations
- † Health system challenges
- † Technological innovations



- † Changing paramedic roles and scopes of practice
- † Greater integration of paramedic services into health systems





# Typical Paramedicine Curricula (US)

Short certificate courses – too numerous to describe or compare

## † Associate degrees

- Patient and Airway Assessment
- Emergency pharmacology
- Principles of emergency medicine
- Anatomy and physiology for emergency care
- Microbiology
- Special patient populations

## † Bachelor degrees

- Medical terminology
- Advanced cardiology
- Advanced emergency care
- EMS administration
- Disaster management
- Managed care in EMS

Source. <https://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/vocational-trade-school/paramedic/>

NB. National Association of EMS Educators has a Position Paper on educational standards in the US.

# Typical Paramedicine Programs (Australia)

## † Victoria University

- Incorporates social determinants of health
- Limited to ambulance service placements
- <https://www.vu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-paramedicine-hbpd#units-and-electives-structure>

## † Queensland University of Technology

- More ambulance service placements than the norm
- Offers a double degree with nursing
- <https://www.qut.edu.au/study/courses/bachelor-of-paramedic-science>

## † Flinders University

- Very biomedical
- <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/bpara.cfm>

## † Monash University

- Core 1<sup>st</sup> year with public subjects
- Clinical focus
- Hons available
- <https://monash.edu/pubs/2017handbooks/courses/M2002.html>

## † Charles Sturt University

- Long established
- Hons available
- <http://futurestudents.csu.edu.au/courses/allied-health-pharmacy/bachelor-paramedicine#course-offering>

All paramedic university courses are accredited by CAA/PA in Australia and New Zealand.

# La Trobe University Response

A four-step approach using the PARiHS Framework

- 1) Collection of relevant data (eg. research)
- 2) Review and analyse the data
- 3) Curriculum development
- 4) Implementation



# Curriculum Development

Our starting point was a double degree with some regulatory issues. An opportunity for creative change!

**1) Developed an innovative four-year Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with (Clinical or Research) Honours program**

- Meet accreditation requirements
- Strong public health content is included
- All students will complete the four-year program
- Expect most to take the Clinical Honours pathway
- url to academic paper <https://search.proquest.com/docview/1931579040?pq-origsite=gscholar>
- Course Outline: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/handbook/2018/undergraduate/she/health-sciences/single-degrees/hhpp.htm>

**2) Potential to develop a postgraduate program in community paramedicine**

- Build on the UG degree
- Considering either a Graduate Certificate (4 subjects) or a Graduate Diploma (8 subjects)
- Aimed at experienced paramedics working as ECPs or in CP-type roles



# Our Vision



Our new paramedic programs will provide opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students to gain skills and knowledge beyond that delivered in traditional paramedicine programs, including knowledge specific to primary health care and community paramedicine. This educational approach will allow for enhanced and flexible roles within communities and professional settings, and are responsive to calls for a model of education that matches future paramedicine roles.

# Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with Honours (Clinical)

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1 Foundational Studies	Introduction to Biosciences A	Introduction to Biosciences B
	Introduction to Professional Practice	Research and Evidence in Practice
	Individual Determinants of Health	Social Determinants of Health & Well-being
	Selective subject	Foundations of Paramedic Practice §
Year 2 Introduction to Paramedicine	Introduction to Paramedic Practice § *	Paramedic Management - Trauma §
	Communications Skills in Healthcare #	Health Education & Development #
	Integrating Evidence into Practice §	Foundations of Pharmacology §
	Principles of Public Health Practice #	Law & Management in Health #
Year 3 Paramedic Capabilities	Paramedic Cardiac & Respiratory §	Integrated Cardiac & Respiratory §
	Paramedic Medical Management §	Integrated Medical Management § *
	Complex Trauma Management § *	Gerontology & Special Needs §
	Paediatrics for Paramedics §	Rural Health #
Year 4 Paramedic Professional Practice	Advanced Mental Health Practice 2 § *	Death, Dying & Grief #
	Extended Care Paramedicine § *	Major Incident Management §
	Community Paramedic Practice § *	Advanced Clinical Management § *
	Obstetrics for Paramedics §	Professional Practice Consolidation §

\* Includes clinical or field placements, # Public Health subjects, § Paramedicine subjects

# Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with Honours (Research)

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1 Foundational Studies	Introduction to Biosciences A	Introduction to Biosciences B
	Introduction to Professional Practice	Research and Evidence in Practice
	Individual Determinants of Health	Social Determinants of Health & Well-being
	Selective subject	Foundations of Paramedic Practice §
Year 2 Introduction to Paramedicine	Introduction to Paramedic Practice § *	Paramedic Management - Trauma §
	Communications Skills in Healthcare #	Health Education & Development #
	Integrating Evidence into Practice §	Foundations of Pharmacology §
	Principles of Public Health Practice #	Law & Management in Health #
Year 3 Paramedic Capabilities	Paramedic Cardiac & Respiratory §	Integrated Cardiac & Respiratory §
	Paramedic Medical Management §	Integrated Medical Management § *
	Complex Trauma Management § *	<del>Gerontology &amp; Special Needs §</del>
	Paediatrics for Paramedics §	Research Methods
Year 4 Paramedic Professional Practice	Advanced Mental Health Practice 2 § *	Death, Dying & Grief #
	Research Project A	Major Incident Management §
	Research Project B	Advanced Clinical Management § *
	Obstetrics for Paramedics §	Professional Practice Consolidation §

\* Includes clinical or field placements, # Public Health subjects, § Paramedicine subjects

# Potential Postgraduate Program

	Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Graduate Certificate</b> (4 subjects)	Extended Care Paramedicine § *	Major Incident Management §
	Community Paramedic Practice § *	Advanced Clinical Management § *
<b>Graduate Diploma</b> (8 subjects)	Advanced Mental Health Practice 2 § *	Death, Dying & Grief #
	Obstetrics for Paramedics §	Professional Practice Consolidation §

NB. All subjects drawn from the Bachelor of Paramedic Practice (Hons)

\* Might include clinical or field placements, # Public Health subjects, § Paramedicine subjects

One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.

**~Abraham Maslow~**



Thank you

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Questions?

