We actually get to apply our skills and make a difference to people’s lives.

Working with an Indigenous community like this is something we can never learn from a text book.
Like nothing I’ve ever done before.
QUT Health Clinics

QUT Health Clinics offer a real world clinical experience for emerging healthcare professionals.

A student-led multidisciplinary collaboration, we lead the way in developing the next generation's health workforce.

Supervised by leaders in their fields, working with state-of-the-art equipment and a broad range of clients, our students are well prepared for a future in a constantly evolving healthcare industry.

Critical to our success has been a focus on providing high quality care that is responsive to community need. Our unique model means we are able to deliver low-cost or free healthcare directly to those people who most need it, including through a number of collaborative projects with government and Not For Profit providers.

With a focus on research and innovation embedded from early practice, we continue to develop our services to meet the needs of clients and stay at the forefront of practitioner education.

QUT Health Clinics welcome you to the next generation of healthcare.

Visit our website to take a 3-D virtual tour through our facilities: www.healthclinics.qut.edu.au

Based in the Kelvin Grove Urban Village we are an integral part of the diverse multicultural community adjoining the university campus.
Real life skills

Our clinics operate on a real-world basis. They follow best-practice models of care, are fully compliant with all current federal and state healthcare regulations and are equipped with the very latest technology.

Clinical placements are carefully planned and controlled so that students experience a comprehensive mix of situations and are given responsibilities when and where appropriate.

Closely supervised, our students can sometimes find themselves working with patients with serious illness such as cancer or significant chronic illness, especially diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

QUT Health Clinics have a reputation for excellence, and collectively represent one of the largest multidisciplinary centres of its kind in Australia.

The importance of team work in healthcare is well-established. People who work well together are more effective and more innovative. Team work is an essential component of student learning. Students can be working alongside practising health professionals from any number of disciplines including general practitioners, surgeons, nurses, social workers and occupational therapists to name just a few.

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

WHO definition of health
Current services

Eating Disorders Clinic
• Multidisciplinary clinic
• Team includes specialist general practitioner and nurse, with students and staff from psychology, exercise physiology, nursing and dietetics

Exercise Physiology
• Specialist clinically-based services where exercise is medicine
• Exercise consultations and supervised group classes
• Chronic disease programs including diabetic and cardiac rehabilitation

Family Mediation Service
• Specialist services led by a trained mediator to help parents who have separated make decisions together that will be best for their children and workable for themselves, thereby allowing them to move on with their lives and let go of conflict

Nutrition and Dietetics
• Evidence based and client centred services supervised by Accredited Practising Dietitians
• Specialist sports nutrition and chronic disease services including diabetes, respiratory and kidney disease

Optometry
• Comprehensive optometry services using state-of-the-art equipment
• Specialist clinics include low vision, contact lens, myopia control and binocular vision
• School and refugee screenings
• Specialist Indigenous eye health services at Cherbourg, Gympie and Caloundra Hospitals

Podiatry
• Full range of podiatry services including diabetes foot clinic, high risk foot clinic, sports and paediatric clinics, school screenings including special schools
• Community outreach including Homeless Connect and Indigenous health clinics

Psychology and Counselling
• Clinical psychology, family therapy and counselling services, including specialist services for the Deaf community
• Educational and developmental psychology in collaboration with Catholic Education and the Caroline Chisholm School Student Support Centre
• Assessment of personality, learning difficulties, intellectual abilities, and problems with attention, memory and other cognitive abilities

Social Work
• Psychosocial assessment and support services are provided to clients of the clinics by Social Work students
• Support of the clinics’ community outreach work and services to residents of aged care facilities
Who we are

A dedicated and experienced community of more than 100 people work together to ensure the QUT Health Clinics run smoothly. They include clinicians, professional and sessional teaching staff, as well as technical and clinical support personnel.

Students are supervised by academic staff, many of them noted authorities in their fields. They also have the benefit of clinical supervisors – professional practitioners who bring a wealth of experience from the ‘real world’ of healthcare. This team is supported by our clinic coordinators and clinical services supervisor.

Our valued reception staff consistently rank exceptionally highly in patient satisfaction surveys. They work closely with our patient services supervisor who ensures best-practice services.

Across the organisation, our staff continually show exceptional commitment and professionalism – something that is commented on regularly by our clients. It is important we remain a workplace of choice and continue to attract the very best employees. We do this by developing, motivating and mentoring our staff and providing a positive environment where they feel valued and respected. We provide real opportunities for growth by helping everyone develop their capabilities. There is also a strong emphasis on collaboration and on continually exploring new ways of working together.

The purpose of the QUT Health Clinics is twofold: as a university for the real world it’s vital that we extend our students’ experience beyond the university borders, but we also need to make sure that what we’re doing has relevance for the community—those around our campuses and in the many places further afield where we take our services directly to those in need in their own communities.

Professor Ross Young, Executive Dean Faculty of Health
Chuck Feeney is a hero. He probably wouldn’t like that characterisation very much. But his modest manner and thoughtful embrace of philanthropy make him a figure that everyone can learn from. I certainly have. (...) By quiet example, Chuck has been an icon of global philanthropy, and he has changed the philanthropic landscape.

Bill Gates

QUT Health Clinics are a living example of Chuck Feeney’s ambition to devote his wealth to the service of humanity by creating unique opportunities. He wanted his grants to have lasting results—to be an investment in a better future. We’re helping to create a generation of healthcare professionals who will go out into the world and make a difference to a great many lives. We’re exposing them to new ideas, new cultures and new environments. At the same time we are serving our own community by delivering important health services to those in need.

Emeritus Professor Ken Bowman AM
QUT Health Clinics owes an enormous debt of gratitude to American philanthropist, Chuck Feeney. It was a $20 million donation made in 2002 by The Atlantic Philanthropies that allowed construction to begin on the $96.8 million building, with completion in 2008. The intention was to expand the University’s research, education and community health capacity by supporting construction of a purpose-built health facility at Kelvin Grove.

Chuck Feeney’s generosity is legendary. Both Bill Gates and Warren Buffet have credited him as their role model. His philosophy is to help people in tangible, lasting ways: “Good buildings for good minds can make the difference in the lives of a lot of people,” he has said. He is also of the firm belief of “giving while living”. A modest and private man, he has been described as “the living example of what a generous spirit can do for the world” yet Chuck Feeney never puts his name to the institutions he helps build.

Growing up in a working class neighbourhood during the Great Depression, he went on to build his fortune in duty free retailing and resorts. Then in the 1980s, driven by the belief that the best use of wealth was to help people, he made the decision to gradually sell his assets. His aim was to devote his entire fortune to benefit humanity.

He approached the Queensland and federal governments anonymously about donating to worthwhile projects and over time The Atlantic Philanthropies invested a total of $586.6 million in Australia, primarily in research and education, on the basis that governments contributed two-thirds of each of the projects he helped initiate.

In partnership with Baulderstone Horrobin Kylie Queensland Pty Ltd and Australian Red Cross Blood Service, The Atlantic Philanthropies built 44 Musk Ave in the centre of Kelvin Grove Urban Village. Constructed and furnished by Chuck Feeney’s gift, QUT Health Clinics span 3 levels of the building which offers health, wellness and recreational activities for students, staff and members of the community. The initiative was led by former Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health, Emeritus Professor Ken Bowman AM.

Gifts to QUT provide vital help for students, drive research and build our community. For information on ways to make an impact through your contribution to QUT, visit www.qut.edu.au/engage/giving
How we’ve grown

Formed in 2008 with three disciplines: optometry, podiatry and psychology; the QUT Health Clinics have grown to become one of the largest multidisciplinary student-led facilities in Australia.

Through our Kelvin Grove Urban Village base and our outreach clinics, we have provided healthcare to more than 20,000 patients across South East Queensland. Our participation in prevention and early intervention healthcare events connects us with thousands more people, many of them the most vulnerable in the community—children, seniors, people experiencing homelessness, and Indigenous people.

The foundations that were laid in the early years to ensure best-practice processes, clinical compliance and robust management and staff training systems, continue to pay dividends, while we evolve and upgrade to keep abreast of new technology and legislation.

Significant efforts have been made to promote our services to the community. Working closely with Indigenous health organisations, aged care facilities and schools, we have initiated or contributed to numerous healthcare events and activities, developing the services we offer and reaching an ever-greater diversity of people. Our students are the beneficiaries.

From a groundbreaking initiative to a leader among student-led healthcare clinics, one thing will never change: our determination to provide the best foundation for our students and the best-quality clinical care for our clients.

There was a wonderful spirit of camaraderie. We felt we were making a difference and we were proud to be part of the university health team.

Podiatry student at Homeless Connect, Brisbane

Seeing that I was helping, even if temporarily, allowing people to share their stories and be listened to and supported. Learning about the complexity of issues dealt with in these communities.

Psychology and Counselling student
Our students

QUT has a reputation for producing graduates who can thrive in unpredictable environments over the long term, work productively in teams, and combine depth in professional knowledge with broad perspectives based on exposure to new ideas and different cultures.

Real-world learning is a defining feature of the QUT experience, and takes a number of different forms including simulation, practical experience, international and intercultural experiences and engagement of practitioners in teaching. These make learning more authentic and engaging.
Connecting with the community

Our clinical services expand every year, providing students with new and rewarding experiences. Our aim is to provide a diversity of working environments to not only improve students’ professional, communication and team work skills, but to help them develop personal resourcefulness.

Exercise Physiology
Exercise physiology provides services to high-needs patients, many with complex, serious conditions and chronic disease. The focus is on therapy, rehabilitation and support in a safe clinical setting and students regularly work with people recovering from cardiac events, stroke or cancer, people with vision impairment and those with MS, Parkinson’s Disease and other neuromuscular disorders.

Nutrition and Dietetics
Nutrition and dietetics students help patients find their way through the maze of often conflicting dietary information prevalent in the media and on the internet, keeping them informed of the latest scientific evidence on nutrition. They deliver practical ways for people of all ages and backgrounds to incorporate healthy eating into their lifestyles.

The Nutrition and Dietetics Clinic participates in many community events, including healthy lunchbox workshops, annual back-to-school events and even healthy shopping tours.

Optometry
Optometry students travel many kilometres every month to help a diverse range of clients. Outreach clinics for the Indigenous communities of Cherbourg and the Sunshine Coast offer optometry services from an Aboriginal Health Service as well as from Gympie and Caloundra hospitals. Students provide services to Brisbane’s refugee community through a pop-up optometry clinic that can be set up in many different locations. Through our partnership with Guide Dogs Queensland, our students provide support to vision impaired clients in Brisbane. In each of these services, our optometry students can work as part of multidisciplinary healthcare teams alongside general practitioners, practice nurses, social workers and occupational therapists.

Podiatry
Our podiatry students can sometimes find themselves helping children with disabilities who need orthotic devices, taking part in screening checks for seniors or conducting foot health checks for people experiencing homelessness. Students provide regular paediatric podiatry checks at the Beenleigh Special School where many of the children have complex health issues and may have both physical and intellectual disabilities. With limited mobility and few transport options, travelling to health services can be difficult for the children. We provide essential podiatry services in the safe and familiar environment of their school.

Our regular school screenings are highly valued and we receive a constant flow of invitations from schools to attend with our pop-up podiatry clinic.

Psychology and Counselling
From assisting children coping with school to elderly people facing grief and loss, working with individuals and families from a wide range of cultures, our psychology and counselling students help the full spectrum of the community with understanding and overcoming emotional, behavioural and relationship problems.
Social Work

Social work specifically focuses on how best to support people holistically, considering all aspects of a person’s life and the impact that this can have on health and wellbeing. Our social work students support QUT Health Clinics’ clients through the provision of psychosocial assessment and support, resource linking and advocacy.
Our clients

Given that our services are provided for a small nominal fee or in some cases at no cost to the client, we represent a valuable referral resource for GPs. We see many people who are in need of specialist healthcare but are unable to access private services because they lack the financial capacity.

Many of the services we offer such as podiatry, psychology, eating disorders programs, diet and exercise programs, in most circumstances attract limited or no Medicare coverage.

We are able to provide healthcare to those sections of the community who need most help. We reach the elderly through our regular visits to aged care facilities, families via our school health checks, regional communities, people with diverse socio-economic backgrounds (including people experiencing homelessness) and many Indigenous people.

By taking our health services directly to the communities that need them we are able to intervene to prevent potential future serious illness for many people who might otherwise slip through the healthcare net. As a matter of course, our community health checks identify some people who are in urgent need of immediate care and many others who need attention in the short term.

In providing equitable access to health services we are firmly aligned with the university’s community engagement values.
Partnering with Indigenous communities

We have a sincere and genuine commitment to improving the health of Indigenous Australians and more broadly, to help tackle inequalities.

We have made it a priority to form partnerships and engage with Indigenous communities wherever we can, at every level and in the most effective ways.

Through initiatives such as the Well Person’s Health Check Day we are able to draw on our unique resources to develop innovative models for positive change in Indigenous health.

At our many outreach clinics we are able to engage in ongoing relationships on an individual basis thus providing valuable experience for our students to effectively communicate with Indigenous Australians, learning to respect and value cultural differences and diversity.

Through the events we attend, we are also able to create aspiration-building opportunities among Indigenous children, demystifying tertiary education, stimulating demand for tertiary study and highlighting the wide scope of career paths that are available in the health industry.
Prevention and intervention

There is never a shortage of willing student volunteers for the many events in which we’re involved. They can expect to work long days in sometimes less than optimum conditions, but the rewards are abundant. Working together in situations that are often far removed from the everyday experience helps forge a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Homeless Connect

QUT Health Clinics have become a regular feature at the Logan and Brisbane City Homeless Connect events that bring together business and community groups to deliver direct essential services and support to those who are either homeless or at risk.

In providing practical health services like this, our students come into close personal contact with Brisbane’s most vulnerable and marginalised citizens. The event gives students from disciplines including Podiatry, Social Work, Optometry, Nursing and Pharmacy the opportunity to work together to achieve the best outcomes for clients. Students work alongside and refer clients to, and receive referrals from, organisations such as Australian Red Cross.

Former students now in private practice return to volunteer their time with us to support and supervise our current students, providing valuable perspectives and advice.

Well Person’s Health Check Day

An estimated 800 Indigenous people travel from across the Sunshine Coast region to the Well Person’s Health Check Day each year. It is always a memorable day for everyone and there are no complaints from staff or students about the long day’s work required. The event is hugely successful and has proven to be a great forum for directly engaging with Indigenous people about their health.

Organised by the North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health (NCACCH), the event has been running since 2005. Its aims are to educate and increase awareness of health issues affecting the Indigenous community by encouraging people to have regular health checks and to talk to health service providers.
Back to School

Our Back to School health screenings each January have provided essential health checks for hundreds of Brisbane children and their families.

We offer foot checks, vision screenings, nutrition assessments and educational and development assessments. Parents have the opportunity for a one-on-one session with a dietitian to discuss healthy lunchbox tips for the year ahead.
QUT has a long-standing commitment to widening tertiary participation among under-represented groups, with particular emphasis on improving access and retention of low-income and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

QUT’s widening participation approach is to tackle awareness, aspiration, achievement, affordability and access in an integrated way; to work in partnership with schools and communities and be led by their expertise; and to adopt a strengths-based approach regarding students from low-income and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

With funding from the Federal Government’s Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP), QUT Health Clinics play a vital role in reaching out to sections of the community who might otherwise never engage with a university and/or have limited awareness of the pathways to tertiary study.

Each year, the Faculty of Health’s Widening Participation team achieves growth in both on-campus and in-school activities.

More than 3000 students from low-income, regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities participate in a range of aspiration-building clinics and events each year.

These interactive workshops showcase the diversity of careers available in health and are aimed at increasing students’ confidence in considering tertiary study.

“Everyone was really nice. I’d like a job where I can help people.”

Young clinic visitor
Explore Uni Days

These age-appropriate events focus on interactive activities for students from years 6 to 10. They align with the relevant school curriculum wherever possible and allow students to engage and interact with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities across both QUT campuses.

Students learn about career options and increase their overall understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of the healthcare industry and the vast range of associated tertiary study and employment opportunities.

For further information please email exploreuni@qut.edu.au
Some of our partners

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Services
Beenleigh Special School
Brisbane Catholic Education (Caroline Chisholm Centre)
Brisbane City Council
Eating Disorders Outreach Service
Education Queensland
Exercise and Sports Science Australia
Guide Dogs QLD
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Institute of Urban Indigenous Health
Jubilee Community Care
Lung Foundation Australia
Medicare Local
Murri School
North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health
Queensland Academy of Creative Industries
Queensland Health
Queensland Police Service
QUT Equity Services
QUT International College
QUT Medical Centre
QUT School of Clinical Sciences
QUT School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
QUT School of Nursing
QUT School of Optometry and Vision Science
QUT School of Psychology and Counselling
QUT School of Social Work and Public Health
QUT Wellness Matters

Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital
Endocrinology
Heart Failure Service
Oncology Department
Physiotherapy Department
Pulmonary Rehabilitation Service
Cardiac Rehabilitation
Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Services
Villa Maria Residential Aged Care Facility
White Cloud Foundation

“We know QUT Health Clinics have a really strong reputation. We collect regular data from the patients who come here to get feedback on what our strengths are and how we can improve our clinical services in future. We also know from the feedback we get from referring health professionals about the high quality of service we provide and one that makes a real difference in the lives of our patients. For many of these patients accessing care elsewhere is expensive and difficult but here, we provide a really good value service that’s easy to access and provides coordinated care.”

Professor Ross Young,
Executive Dean Faculty of Health
Building relationships

Our strategic approach to growth is built on the development of sustainable partnerships. As well as student placements, we work closely with industry partners and community organisations to undertake innovative events, education and research projects.

Each year, we continue to strengthen relationships by the addition of new activities and services. We also strive to extend our partnerships within the health sector and with the broader community. This enables us to meet both our academic aims and our community responsibilities.

An example of this is the introduction of telehealth as a service option, enabling patients of remote hospitals to access our clinics using video-conferencing technology. Our students gain experience using technology to provide healthcare to people living in rural areas, improving health outcomes and options for these communities.

As digital healthcare technology advances, QUT Health Clinics is at the forefront, implementing solutions to equip students with the skills they’ll need in the real world of the future.
Thanks to our exceptional facilities and the expertise of our staff, the QUT Health Clinics have been able to build an international reputation.

With its striking architectural design, advanced equipment and best-practice standards, the facility at Kelvin Grove is something of which we are proud and is a showcase for the university.

Our colleagues in universities from across Australia and around the world are keen to observe our clinics in action and to learn about our models of student learning.

The tours we regularly conduct give us a valuable opportunity to show off the successes of the QUT Health Clinics and demonstrate the university as a leader in global education.
Looking forward

At QUT Health Clinics our students gain a solid foundation for their future in healthcare. We understand this is a critical time in their lives and the experiences they share with us today will stay with them for life.

Our clients entrust us with their health and they deserve the very best we can deliver. We are privileged to be able to provide essential health services to some of the community's most disadvantaged. We must ensure we live up to that responsibility.

This is why we always look for ways to improve what we do and to reach more people. As we move into the future, QUT Health Clinics continues to seek out new opportunities to meet the health needs of the community, boldly innovate in real world student learning, and place our graduates ahead of the field.

For the next generation of healthcare professionals, the future starts here.
Contact us

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Providing outstanding clinical education to the next generation of healthcare professionals and quality patient care to the community.