Course Proposal

Additional Health Planning Specialisation into the Master of Health Services Management course

Scoping Document

Key points

Pending the acceptance of a tender to the NSW and Queensland Departments of Health, approval is sought for the:

1. Addition of a specialisation of Health Services Planning into the current Masters of Health Services Management (MHSM) program.

2. Proposed first intake for Session 1 in 2010.

Background

The NSW and Queensland Departments of Health invited the Health Services Management discipline (School of Biomedical Sciences) to respond to a Request for Quote (RFQ) to develop and conduct a program in health services planning. A response to the RFQ has been made.

Proposal

It is proposed to form a ‘Health Services Planning’ specialisation within the existing MHSM program, offered by distance education and as a full fee-paying course.

Need and Demand

The fact that an RFQ was issued indicates that at least two Departments of Health in Australia perceive a need for a formal program in health services planning, that a high quality program of this nature does not currently exist, and that the Departments of Health are prepared to support such a program.

Health Services Planning is a growing specialisation within the health care industry. All Area Health Services in NSW have teams of health planners and other states in Australia employ health planners. Staff turnover amongst health planners and the need to provide education for replacement staff indicates that there will be an ongoing need for such a program. A program in health services planning would be relevant to all Australian states, and indeed overseas.

The Departments of Health acknowledge that a program in health services planning would be applicable to three student cohorts:

1. Planners who already have a range of skills but wish to either strengthen existing skills or address an identified deficit and so develop a more rounded skill set.

2. Planners at an earlier stage of their career in planning who are still learning ‘on the job’, and want to acquire planning knowledge and skills in a systematic way to give them confidence in their role.
3. Recently appointed planners who have little or no knowledge or skills in planning, but are likely to have transferable skills.

Health managers, not only specialist health planners, frequently participate in planning activities and this suggests a fourth potential student cohort - generalist health managers and clinical leaders.

It is estimated that by offering the program an additional 30-50 students will be attracted to CSU each year.

**Proposed Course Structure**

The draft program structure is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subject code</th>
<th>Subject title</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HSM###</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Planning (new subject)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSM409</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Public Health (current subject)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSM401</td>
<td>Perspectives on Health Care Systems (current subject)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSM404</td>
<td>Management of Health and Aged Care Services (current subject)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HSM406</td>
<td>Resourcing Health and Aged Care Services (current subject)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSM###</td>
<td>Advanced Health Planning (expanded subject that is currently HSM510 – 8 points)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3&amp;4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSM408</td>
<td>Current Issues in Health Services Management (current subject)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HLT515</td>
<td>Master of Health Science Portfolio (current subject) or 4 electives (see electives list – Table x) (current subjects)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5&amp;6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students may exit the course with a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Masters degree as follows.

**Grad. Cert.** Successful completion of year 1 subjects – 4 required subjects (32 points).

**Grad. Dip.** Successful completion of years 1 and 2 subjects – 7 required subjects (64 points).

**Masters** Successful completion of years 1, 2 and 3 subjects – 7 required subjects plus either the Master of Health Science Portfolio (dissertation) or 4 electives (96 points).
Resources

Should the submission to the Departments of Health be successful, there would be a growth in student numbers and a concomitant increase in teaching load. Development costs would be provided by the Departments of Health. The Departments of Health would also assist with marketing and refer potential students to CSU.

The Health Services Management discipline already has expertise in health planning and one academic recently held the position of Senior Planner for a rural Area Health Service in NSW.

This proposal includes the introduction of two new subjects, one of which is an expansion of a current 8 point subject; these new subjects will be introduced within the current Faculty of Science subject targets.