

RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

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Title: Keeping Locals Local: Empowering Rural Healthcare with the UniSQ Charleville Nursing Revolution

Abstract: UniSQ's Charleville End-to-End Nursing Program addresses a critical shortage of nurses in Southwest Queensland through comprehensive, locally-focused training. This is the first initiative to offer nursing in a modified Monash seven - or very remote location - in Queensland, enabling local students to pursue their nursing studies within their communities and removing travel barriers. This program includes intensive onsite training at the Charleville Clinical Training Facility, free accommodation, academic support from a UniSQ Program Coordinator and strong partnerships with local health services and the community.

Launched in 2022, the program has enrolled 33 rural students, achieving a 90% retention rate and 40% First Nations participation. The program graduated its first cohort in February 2024, with 80% securing full time employment within the region, evidence that the program has fostered local employment opportunities. This initiative keeps locals local, strengthening the local nursing workforce and contributing to community health.