

RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2025

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Title: AI-Enhanced Virtual Clinical Placements: Bridging Rural Healthcare Education Gaps

Abstract: This initiative demonstrates innovative integration of generative AI platforms to transform nursing education at UNE, specifically addressing challenges faced by regional and rural healthcare delivery. Our AI-powered virtual clinical placement platform serves both undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students, creating adaptive, personalised learning experiences that reflect authentic rural healthcare scenarios.

The platform utilises generative AI to create dynamic patient interactions across two key areas: aged care management for postgraduate students and community healthcare delivery for undergraduates. The AI system adapts to student responses, generating interactive scenarios aligned with Australian National Health Priorities and rural healthcare challenges.

Implementation has realised significant improvements in student satisfaction (2.9 to 4.3/5) and learning outcomes. The platform particularly benefits rural and regional students by providing equitable access to diverse clinical experiences. Student feedback confirms its effectiveness: "The virtual placement learning modules provided realistic scenarios to bridge the gap between theory and practice."