Why work in the HCS industry?

- One of the most diverse industry groups in the Australian workforce—there are over 500 different occupations (not just doctors, nurses and paramedics!)
- Tipped to be the fastest growing industry in Australia in the next 5 years due to our ageing population, demand for children’s services, high consumer demand and skill shortages
- Highest number of national and regional skill shortage occupations out of all industries in Australia
- As technology develops, so do the jobs (i.e., medical engineering, nuclear therapies, dental prosthetics)
- Lots of new jobs are yet to be invented over the next 10 yrs (i.e., work and research with stem cells)
- You can work here or overseas and in many occupations you can work flexible hours and travel and also open your own business (i.e., Massage)
- If you don’t want to work directly with people, there are many occupations where you can work ‘behind the scenes” in research, policy development, health information management and information technologies

Careers: There are over 500 occupations in the HCS sector.

Community services include occupations such as Youth Work, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, Alcohol and Other Drugs Work, Child Protection, Disability Work, Child Care and Aged Care.

Health occupations include Nursing, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Medicine, Dietetics, Podiatry, Prosthetics, Medical Imaging and Radiology etc.

Education: Choosing the right subjects at school that will support further education and training pathways will depend on what HCS occupation you would like to pursue. See your career adviser for up to date advice

Employment Prospects: Currently there is a shortage of skilled workers in many HCS occupations, such as nursing, child care, medical specialists, and health technicians. There is also an ageing workforce, which will create many jobs for young people over the next 5 – 10 years when many skilled workers will retire.

“Expansion is anticipated in diagnostic services, allied health, complementary and alternative health services, childcare, aged and community support services”. Taken from http://hcscareers.vic.edu.au

Pathways into HCS careers: Depending on what occupation you would like to pursue, you can undertake study through vocational education, university study or through a traineeship.

You can study HCS courses at the majority of TAFE and university institutes and also private colleges like the Southern School of Natural Therapies and Endeavour College of Natural Health. Go to www.careersthatmatter.com.au/ to find out more.

What next?

- Fill out the online Career Map quiz at www.careergov.com.au/careermapch to work out which HCS jobs you would be suited to.
- Check out health occupation videos on Youtube at www.youtube.com/workthatmatters
- Go to www.endeavour.edu.au/career-paths/ to learn about careers in natural therapies
Madelaine Moore  
Bachelor of Health Sciences/  
Master of Orthoptics,  
La Trobe University, Bundoora

Madelaine took a gap year after school to study overseas and then changed her course from science to orthoptics. “I am studying orthoptics, which is the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. The first year is broad anatomy and health subjects. Then the course goes into neuroscience, ocular pathology and specific orthoptic subjects. The best part of this course is that there is a strong demand for orthoptists. When I finish I want to work alongside an ophthalmologist (eye surgeon).”

For information on this degree, go to http://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/orthoptics

Melissa Rowland  
Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Speech Pathology  
La Trobe University, Bundoora

In first year I loved visiting the ‘speechies’ at the hospital and sitting in on sessions with a range of patients - little kids, elderly people and everyone in between. I love how extensive the role of a Speech Pathologist is as it will give me so many opportunities and chances to learn. Not many people realise how involved they are in brain injury patients and swallowing as well as working with speaking disorders. I would like to be engaged in a broad field of work after graduation before specialising in a particular field - possibly traumatic brain injury or children.

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/speech-pathology

Hannah Faul  
Diploma of Enrolled Nursing,  
Victoria University (TAFE)  
Bachelor of Nursing,  
La Trobe University, Wodonga

Hannah complete the 2 year Diploma of Enrolled Nursing. This allowed her to transfer into the second year of the Bachelor of Nursing at La Trobe. “TAFE is packed full of everything you need to know very quickly as the course is only 18 months. We did anatomy and physiology in 6 months, where in first year registered they do it over a year.


Grace Hodgkin  
Bachelor of Physiotherapy  
Charles Sturt University  
Albury-Wodonga

As a part of my course I study many areas including biomechanics, physiotherapeutic diagnoses and provide appropriate programs of therapeutic exercise and treatments to those primarily with physical conditions.

We study both musculoskeletal physiotherapy and cardiovascular roles in physiotherapy and well as neurological conditions.

Best thing about my course is that I love helping people and that is the most rewarding aspect of this career path for me. I feel as if I am making a difference to the wellbeing and physical health of patients. I also really enjoy placement, as you get to experience hands-on what the job entails and the areas that you really enjoy in physio

Goals for the future- I really hope to start off by getting experience doing hospital work, but I hope to one day specialise in women’s health physiotherapy and to run my own practice. I also really enjoy paediatric work

http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/physiotherapy/course-overview
Katherine Flanagan  
Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Podiatric Practice  
La Trobe University, Bundoora

I enrolled at La Trobe University in Melbourne, and I completed a semester of my Bachelor of Health Science/Masters of Podiatric Practice abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland. 

Best aspects of the course is the ability to reinforce the theory learnt in a clinical setting and also working with such a close knit group of people, who all share similar interests. Currently I am finishing my final year with the intention of working in the Northern Territory, travelling abroad and investing in my own private practice somewhere down the track. 

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/podiatry

Hayley Maggs  
Bachelor of Science, Monash  
Master of Medical Radiations (Radiation Therapy), Monash

I completed an undergraduate science degree at Monash majoring in developmental biology and human pathology. Towards the end of this course I knew I wanted to be in the health profession, but not exactly sure in what capacity. So I began researching post grad courses, and found the Masters of Radiation Therapy, also offered by Monash. It is a 2 year accelerated course

The question I get asked the most is what is a radiation therapist? Most people think that I have something to do with chemotherapy or radiography. Radiation therapy utilises high energy X-rays to target cancer cells, while sparing healthy tissue. It is a highly technical profession, requiring excellent problem solving skills.

It combines a technical background with patient care, which is something that I love and is very rewarding. I have lost count of the number of boxes of chocolates I have received from patients, even as a student!

There are two areas of radiation therapy- planning and treatment. Planning is the more technical side of the job where you are required to analyse the patients scans to decide the best method of attack. It is basically a problem solving task requiring you to determine the best way to get the radiation in while saving all the healthy tissue and organs.


Dave Hammat  
Bachelor of Social Work/ Bachelor of Psychology  
RMIT

Dave is studying a combined degree in both psychology and social work. 

Overview of my degree: “Psychology scientifically combines all the psych schools of thought- social, cognitive, biological, humanistic, psychodynamic (Freud) etc and explores what we know about human nature. Through this exploration, psych shows us what influences our behaviour and thinking, it provides us with the knowledge to assist people in setting up protective factors in their life and give a very brief introduction to counselling skills. 

Social work - looks at the pragmatic influences on our life, economics, public policy, politics, class divisions, and discourses (ways of thinking and speaking that disempower people e.g. sexism, homophobia etc.). It gives you a deep understanding of how to conduct individual counselling, group work, working with violence and abuse and readies you to be a therapist who's more frontline (can do case management and do therapy in the car on the way to court or in the homeless shelter) then a psychologist

The difference between the degrees is that undergraduate psychology is not a degree in counselling. Undergrad social work will ready you to be a counsellor however you will come out with a lower pay grade than if u do 6 years of Psychology

Work Experience: I undertook work experience with Department of Human Services working with high profile criminals for a unit called disability justice

The best thing about my course is that I'll be qualified world wide, generally to a higher standard than most countries. I'll never wait for a job as I'll always be in demand, and when you are working with the lives of people who have endured the most and are on the extreme fringes the content in classes/work is never dull”

http://www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp113
IT scholarships for international students: Monash University Faculty of Information Technology offers the International Merit Scholarship and the Faculty of IT Course Fee Allowance. To find out about eligibility criteria and the application process, go to www.it.monash.edu/scholarships

RMIT Experience Days - Register now!

- Accounting and Finance, Monday 1 July
- Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations, Thursday 4 July
- Aerospace, Manufacturing, and Mechanical Engineering, Wednesday 3 July
- Art and Design Day, Friday 5 July
- Community Justice Day, Tuesday 2 July
- Computing and IT Day, Friday 5 July
- Fashion and Textiles Day, Monday 1 July
- Electrical and Computer Engineering Day, Tuesday 2 July
- Environment Day, Thursday 4 July
- Health and Medical Sciences, Thursday 4 July
- Media Day, Tuesday 2 July

For more information and to register for one or more of these free days in Melbourne, go to www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays

agideas 2013 Futures: This event will be run Wednesday 1 May between 4.00pm – 8.00pm and is a must for any student considering a career in design. You will be able to

- Attend a course expo and speak to representatives from industry and vocational and higher education institutions.
- Learn about the pathways from school into design courses and discover new career pathways
- Attend a presentation and hear from 9 top designers from Australia and overseas, who will share the secret’s of their highly successful careers.

Tickets are available to buy now. For more information, go to http://www.agideas.net/uploads/DEFO041_Futures_Digital_Flyer_LR.pdf

Girls in IT Day: Swinburne University is again hosting their Girls in IT Day on Tuesday 28 May for girls in Years 7 – 10. You will be able to:

- Participate in hands on interactive programming and design workshops, exploring the latest in IT
- Listen to inspirational female industry speakers talking about their dream IT jobs
- Hear from current IT students, talking about why they love studying information technology.

For more information, speak to your Careers Adviser, or go to http://www.swinburne.edu.au/ict/schools/visit-us/girls-in-it-day/
Free Chemistry & Biology VCE Lectures at Monash University: The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash is offering free lectures to students studying VCE Units 3 – 4 in Chemistry and/or Biology. Lectures will be delivered by expert VCE teachers. The next lectures will run on the following dates: Biology- 5 June and Chemistry- 12 June. To register, go to www.monash.edu.au/pharm/about/events

Indigenous Student Experience Monash Day: Indigenous Australian students in Years 9 to 12 are invited to attend and gain hands-on experience through a large range of interactive activities at Monash. The event will be held Wednesday 5 June. For further information or to RSVP, please contact Kristel Keleher at kristel.keleher@monash.edu or (03) 9905 8699

Monash Computer Games Boot Camp: This is a week long event run by the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University for Year 9 to Year 12 students. If you are interested in becoming a professional gamer, building and designing games or simply playing games this event is for you!

The program runs between Saturday 6 July – Friday 12 July at the Clayton Campus. For more information and to register, go to https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/

Monash University IT Challenge 2011: You have the opportunity to enter the IT Challenge competition. The categories are:

- Programming
- Applications
- Database
- Game Development
- Web Design
- Flash Animation
- Digital Imaging
- Machinima
- Open IT Category
- 3D Maya/Max
- Film

Entries can be team based or individual and your final entries must be in by 17 June.

If you are going to enter, please email Andrew Owen at Monash to let him know as soon as possible- Andrew.Owen@monash.edu.au. For information about the categories and entry requirements, go to http://infotech.monash.edu/promotion/competitions

MARCH EVENTS

- Meet Melbourne University, for the closet event, http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/
- MyDay Charles Sturt University Events, for a list of course areas covered and dates, http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday
- At Monash Seminar Series, for a list of events, www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/
- 21: Engineers Australia Careers Expo, Etihad Stadium Melbourne, www.engineeringexpo.org.au

APRIL EVENTS

- 5: Experience La Trobe University, Bundoora, http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience
- 17, 18: Monash Seminar Series, Design and Fine Art (17) and Psychology (18), www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/
- Meet Melbourne University, Geelong (23), Ballarat (23) and Mildura (30), http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/