

VOLUNTEERING WITH JCU MEDICINE

## Volunteer Simulated Patients

JCU medical students acquire extensive skills and unique clinical practice opportunities, equipping them to be work-ready health professionals passionate about the health of our communities. From the first year of their degree, our medical students are exposed to simulated and authentic clinical experiences in the classroom and across multiple health care settings.

The clinical skills curriculum within the JCU Medicine program provides students with the ability to learn and practice a wide range of clinical skills in a safe teaching and learning environment. As part of this, JCU recruits Volunteer Simulated Patients (VSP) to roleplay cases and interact with students to develop students' clinical skills, knowledge and patient management. Volunteers are called to act out a wide range of medical cases, everything from abdominal pain to lung cancer.

VSPs provide students with the opportunity to interact with people of all ages, genders, backgrounds, health conditions and life experiences. This interaction gives JCU students an authentic, 'real world' clinical skills learning experience which will prepare them for their future careers. It also provides volunteers with an opportunity to contribute to the education of our future doctors while getting active in their community.

### What role does a VSP play?

VSPs undertake a wide variety of roles, depending on individual preferences and comfort levels. Depending on the teaching and learning needs of the students as well as the skill/s being taught or assessed, you might be participating in:

- History Taking sessions which require individuals to role play a certain patient or clinical presentation.
- Providing feedback to the students specifically about their communication style and professional approach.
- Physical examination sessions which includes exposing part/s of the body for students to examine. Please note: all examinations are non-invasive.
- Procedural workshops (such as taking vital signs)

At no time is there an expectation to perform, demonstrate or assist in an activity that would breach your comfort, safety or personal preferences.

### What qualifications are required?

No formal education is required to become a VSP. The ability to role play is desirable but not essential. There is also NO requirement to hold/obtain a Blue Card.

You will need two referees as part of your VSP application. At least one of your referees must be a non-family member. An authorised JCU representative may contact via phone the two people with a short list of questions.

### Is there training?

Following the completion of a VSP application, you will be notified of the outcome via email. VSP training is held annually. All VSPs, both new and existing, will receive an invitation to attend a training session, typically held in February each year. Training is conducted by JCU Clinical Skills Unit staff members on relevant and contemporary topics.

*"It's such a tremendous privilege to be part of a medical student's journey. You're treated like a VIP and you can feel that you're contributing to something important."*

*Ivor, JCU Volunteer since 2019.*

### Volunteer with JCU

Scan the QR Code to find out more and register your interest.

For further information, please contact us on:

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