## Clinical Schools Transcript

**Text on Screen:**

Professor Bill McGuiness  
Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery  
Head of Alfred Clinical School

“Hi, I’m Bill McGuiness I’m head of the Alfred Clinical School and the Head of Nursing at La Trobe University. You’ll probably talk about Clinical Schools at our Open Days and our other material. So I thought its important that we might walk you through what a clinical school is and how important it is for your education here at La Trobe. For the first 18 months you are going to be based at Bundoora and that’s important because we want to understand the fundamentals of science and social science and nursing skills but for the last 18 months of your course you are going to spend them at a clinical school. This ones the Aflred Hospital Clinical School but we have clinical schools at the Northern Hospital, the Melbourne Hospital and the Austin Hospital.”

“Clinical Schools are a combination of theory education and clinical education. Let me take you into one of the rooms that you won’t see out at Bundoora, where we can actually bring in real patients and treat them. You will see this is the same as any hospital ward, its fully equipped, we can bring patients into here to treat them, and we can use it for clinical research, and more importantly we have video link facilities., so that the patients can actually be video linked to our regional campuses so the students and patients can talk to one another. Whilst we have laboratories at Bundoora where you can practice your skills, at the clinical schools we have real clinical areas where the patients are brought in here for treatment. Let me take you on now and show you some of the other facilities.”

“We are proud at La Trobe to be one of the first nursing education providers to offer clinical schools. It provides a number of advantages to students and I’ll walk you through some of those as we go through the clinical school. The next area I want to show you is the computer labs. Now the computer labs of course are out at Bundoora for the first 18 months and we have the same facilities provided here at the clinical school. So should you need to research assignments, should you need to write assignments, you get the same facilities that you would get out at Bundoora. The difference here at the clinical school is that these computers also talk to the hospitals information network. So we can actually look up patient information such as blood tests, or x-rays, or what the other practitioners are saying about patients with their progress notes. So not only can you do your assignments here but you can look at real patient data as we discuss cases. Pop over and our show you some of the other areas.”

“Now I mentioned that we have a number of classrooms so a lot of the theory education as well as the clinical education is conducted at the school. So here is an example of one of our classrooms so you can see its set up for small groupwork or it can become a full blown lecture theatre if we need to be so it’s a very flexible space. It has exactly the same facilities as you would see at our main campus in terms of teaching facilities and video linking. And it provides us with a space where we can again bring expert clinicians over to talk to you or of course they’ll bring patients in.”

“Now I want to show you just a couple of other facilities for the rest of the tour. The advantage of being at a clinical school are several. First of all, the people that are teaching you, are the people who are currently practicing the skill. So you are not being taught by someone who hasn’t practiced for a while, you are being taught by somebody who has come directly off the wards to teach you. The other advantage is you get to understand a hospital or healthcare agency’s culture and how to function within that culture. And more importantly it helps you when you are making final year decisions about where you’d like to do your first year as a graduate nurse and gives the agencies a chance to talk to you about what they like about the graduate nurses and whether they would like you to work for them in a graduate area.”

“Off to my right here you can see we have a range of lockers, while we are passing, this is where you can store all your equipment while you are in the clinical agency so all of your valuables are kept safe. Now whilst we talk a lot about education and work we also realise there needs to be some rest time and play for students. So another important aspect of our clinical schools is our student common rooms. These rooms provide the opportunity for students just to chill out really and get together in social networking groups and talk about things that might not be nursing and things that might be nursing. There’s always milk and coffee and tea provided and students are able to come in and use the various cooking facilities for their meal breaks. So I hope that has given you a bit of a feel for what a clinical school looks like and I really hope that I see you here at the Alfred here in the future or one of our other La Trobe University clinical schools.”