## Health Information Management at La Trobe Transcript

Kerin Robinson
Head of Department, Health Information Management

The Health Information Management profession is employed throughout the Australian healthcare system. Health information managers work is critical. It’s absolutely essential to the functioning of the Australian health care system. There is a massive, massive demand for health information management graduates right throughout Australia. Health information managers work in hospitals, they work in community health centres, they work in government health departments, they work in national level organisations such as the Australian Institute of Healthy Welfare, they work in places such as the National Coroners Information Service, they work in health care computing development companies. In other words they work right throughout the healthcare system, sort of behind the scenes if you like

The students do the first core year, in which they study alongside every other student in every other course in this Faculty. They then undertake 3 years of very specialised health information management studies. And in the course the students undertake 3 very different placements in various hospitals and other health services right throughout the state, right throughout the country and sometimes overseas. The placements are a very important part and integral part of the course and in the final year placement students very often pick up jobs or job offers from their placement agencies. Students study subjects ranging from anatomy and physiology, geomedical terminology, right through to health informatics, management of electronic health information systems, electronic medical records, coding and classification of patients diseases and operations, health information ethics and law, management of health information systems and so on.

The course really appealed to me and I felt like it would be something I’d really enjoy doing. I like that you get to learn a lot of really important skills. I also like the placements side of it, you go in there and you learn so much on the job and everything you learn in class just makes so much more sense when you are actually in a real hospital working. And also from placement a lot of people including myself have actually been given part time jobs out of that. I work at Peter Mac at the moment as a Viner data officer and that’s been a really great opportunity

I decided to study HIM because going through high school some of my favourite subjects included management, health and IT sort of side of things. I looked at the HIM course and included all those sort of things and it applied to health services and also research so they were areas I was really interested in and also the opportunity of the HIM course, currently there’s huge demand for that, for HIMs and you can go into areas such as research, IT, coding and also health service management.

I like the course because all the lecturers and subject coordinators, because it’s a relatively small course you get lots of contact time with them, a lot of feedback and supervision from them.

One of the real advantages of our double degree is that students are able to exit at the end of third year with a Bachelor of Health Sciences (Medical Classification). So these students then when they graduate are qualified to be a clinical coder and they can work in a hospital anywhere around Australia in a public hospital or a private hospital and clinical coders are in massively high demand as well. So this course offers really terrific employment opportunities to our graduates.