

## **Video Life stories: Reflecting on student professional development**

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For residents in aged care, life stories enhance person centred care through enabling their voice to be heard. Working collaboratively with aged care facilities within WA since 2012, first year Graduate Entry Masters (GEM) occupational therapy students have been creating individual video life stories as part of their Gerontology unit. This Work-Integrated-Learning (WIL) activity provides students the opportunity to spend time with an older adult in a semi structured and supported activity. This research aims to identify the subjective benefits and challenges experienced by students when completing a life story project with residents in aged care.

Using Gibb's model of reflection, students individually reflect on their personal development over the course of the semester. The reflection is used during clinical supervision to facilitate a conversation about progress on professional development goals and to develop strategies for ongoing improvement. Following completion of the project, students submit a final copy of their reflective essay, incorporating and responding to feedback from their fieldwork supervisor, giving voice to their learning. At the end of semester, the de-identified reflective essays are analysed using a qualitative methodology, immersion/crystallisation. This is a thematic narrative analysis framework, in which data are inductively coded individually, then uses a consensus building approach to triangulate themes.

Previous informal evaluation identified that students develop graduate attributes such as communication skills for interviewing; and professional skills such as time management and problem solving. Preliminary findings indicate that students developed context specific communication skills, and that the project positively influenced students' negative stereotypes of ageing.

The findings identify the skills developed through this WIL experience and aims to provide a vision for further development in other WIL in the curriculum.