

KOORI HEALTH: PAST TO PRESENT

ABSTRACT

The multimedia role play enables health professionals to engage and explore key interactions central to the development and delivery of Aboriginal health programs from multiple stakeholder standpoints. It facilitates understanding of a holistic perspective on Aboriginal health and builds capacity for negotiating key partnerships central to appropriate health service delivery.

KEYWORDS

Aboriginal Health; Aboriginal Culture; Stakeholder perspectives; Historical resonances; Public Policy

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DESCRIPTION

The role play scenario immerses participants in a particular historical context of Victorian/Koori Aboriginal-settler relationships. Informed by an archive of video, audio, photographic and text-based resources, the online role play allows participants to explore both Aboriginal and settler standpoints based on actual historical figures. On the basis of a detailed understanding of an historical role, its societal and contextual constraints, participants negotiate a resolution to an historical Aboriginal health problem. Participants also reflect on the historical resonances of arguments present within contemporary debates about Aboriginal culture and health.

AUDIENCE/GROUP SIZE

- KOORI HEALTH was designed as an assessable learning activity for Postgraduate students in the health sciences.
- There are six stakeholder characters. Typically each character is played by a team of three to five participants.
- A minimum of one character in each role is necessary for the role play to function (min 6 players; no max).

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

This learning design aims to assist participants to:

- Identify historical antecedents of contemporary Aboriginal health status;
- Identify the historical basis of key socio-economic and demographic trends central to contemporary Aboriginal health issues;
- Apply understandings of history to Aboriginal experiences of health and illness and the potential of public health interventions;
- Identify professional and popular representations of Aboriginal health disadvantage;
- Explore their own standpoint as an informed ethical public health practitioner and the implications for their own professional practice.

TIME AND SETTING

This multimedia role play is set in Coranderrk Aboriginal Settlement which was established in 1863 at Healesville, 30 kms from Melbourne in Victoria. Involving six historical characters, the role play examines a range of social determinants impacting on the health of Aboriginal people at this time and the contemporary resonances of these factors today

- The role play is embedded as a first semester activity in a Foundation subject in a Masters Program
- There are four learning scenarios that run over eight weeks
- It has been used a number of times in different formats.

RESOURCES

- KOORI HEALTH is delivered using Web-based Software developed by Educational and Technology Services at the University of Melbourne (<http://www.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/ets/pages/index.html>)
- The role play requires each student to engage with actual archival materials about a historical character and interact with other historical characters. The electronic archives include perspectives of settlers, officials and the Kulin, and their allies in the form of letters, photographs, newspaper articles, public letters to the editor, transcribed testimony from three public inquiries, and Aborigines Protection Board reports, minutes and correspondence. It is from engaging with these archives that the role-play characters emerge.

ASSESSMENT

- Performance in the role play contributes 40% towards the total assessment for the subject
- Participants are assessed on the quality of insights recorded in their ongoing Individual online journal reflection regarding shifts in own understanding of Aboriginal and Australian history and effects on Aboriginal health.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Era of Aboriginal History	Introduction: Aboriginal History	Pre-invasion health	Frontier	Pre-Federation	Segregation	Assimilation	Self-determination	Sovereignty?
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Role Play Learning Process	Scenario One: Social Connectedness & Diet		Scenario Two: Stolen Wages: Threats to Wellbeing		Scenario Three: Identity - Attachment to Country		Scenario Four: Governance; Self-Determination; Community Control	
Role Play Comp lab sessions	1/2 an hour		1 hour	1 .5 hours				1 hour

FACILITATOR ISSUES

The moderator

- Monitors discussion sites and student participation
- Prompts timely engagement in the learning activities.

REUSABILITY

Originally designed for a masters program in Aboriginal health, this role play has the potential to be used in courses focusing on:

- Aboriginal health
- Cross-cultural awareness in health
- Australian history, public policy
- Aboriginal cultural studies
- Social determinants of public health.

REFERENCES AND LINKS

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Mission Voices <http://www.abc.net.au/missionvoices/>

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