Simulated patient FAQ’s

*If I am interested in being a simulated patient what do I do next?*

Fill out an expression of interest form and send it to us. The expression of interest forms can be sent by post to:

Karen Livesay

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Victoria University

PO Box 14428

Melbourne Vic 8001

Or by email to:

[Karen.Livesay@vu.edu.au](mailto:Karen.Livesay@vu.edu.au)

Or by fax marked Attention Karen Livesay to:

99192832

*Where do I get an expression of interest form?*

You can get the form by emailing

[Karen.Livesay@vu.edu.au](mailto:Karen.Livesay@vu.edu.au)

By telephoning and asking that one be sent to you

Forms will be left at your community centre and by contacting Kavitha Chandra-Shekeran at the centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health

*What happens after I send the expression of interest form back?*

The project team will make contact with you by telephone and chat about your desire to help as a simulated patient. Following the telephone chat you may be invited to come in for a meeting to discuss your willingness to help and availability in more detail. At this time we will need to collect some information from you about past medical problems and experiences you have had in hospital.

*What is involved in the training?*

We will go through what a simulated patient does, how this helps students to learn, spend some time studying the character you will portray and then we will spend some time practicing being in the role of the character. Once you are comfortable playing that part we will talk about giving students feedback from your perspective and how you can do that. Finally we will give you a chance to practice giving feedback.

*How many hours will I need to give up?*

We will spend about 2 days initially giving you training and practice. After this is complete, teaching sessions usually occur in 2 hour blocks and you may be asked to do 1 or a number of consecutive blocks. This would be open for negotiation so you should let us know when we contact you how much time you have.

*Where will the training be held?*

The training sessions will be held at Victoria University St Albans campus.

*Will I be able to nominate the days I can attend training?*

We will offer training on days where most people can attend and if needed we will repeat these to try to be flexible enough for everyone to be involved. You will be asked to nominate days you are available for training during the early phase of meeting the project team.

*What will happen with the information that I provide about my past medical and social history?*

Your information will be recorded in a data base of simulated patients so that we can make sure you are matched for teaching that is suited to you based on your age, gender and past medical history. The data base will only be accessible by 4 members of the “Achieving the best in the West - Developing Cultural Sensitivity through Simulated Learning" team until June 30th 2013. After June 30th the data base will be managed by the person holding the Simulated Learning Coordination role within the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Victoria University.

*Will I get other simulated patient work after the* *“Achieving the best in the West - Developing Cultural Sensitivity through Simulated Learning" project is over?*Your name and details will be held in a database of trained simulated patients in the Western region of Melbourne. If other education providers like hospitals, Universities and Doctors surgeries want to employ simulated patients they will contact Victoria University. The simulated learning Coordinator will search the data base and provide only your name and contact details to the prospective simulated patient employer. The employer will then contact you and offer the training work to you.

*Do I have to do the work if I don’t want to?*

You always have the right to not participate in work that you do not want to do or if the work is making you feel uncomfortable.

*Will I get paid?*

During the “Achieving the best in the West - Developing Cultural Sensitivity through Simulated Learning" project until June 2013 funds have been allocated to allow us to pay you for the work hours we agree to you performing. For projects after this some education sessions will have funding but others may want to see if you are available to volunteer. The rates of pay from each potential education program may be different as well. When a potential employer makes contact with you they will discuss the requirements, time restraints and salary.

*Will I only need to talk to students?*

The initial scenarios that are planned for the *“Achieving the best in the West - Developing Cultural Sensitivity through Simulated Learning"* project are all concerned with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds talking to students. However simulated patients using the skills you will learn in the training we give you, are used to help with students learning other skills and during exams. You may be offered work helping with these activities and it is up to you if you would like to participate. This kind of work may involve talking to a student while they do a procedure like take your blood pressure or work on a plastic model putting in stitches. You would get extra training for any other role you were invited to participate in.