

Help a student take their first steps

Working with real clients in the community is extremely important to a health practitioner's training

Observing a skilled practitioner at work is only part of the equation.

Students also have a great deal to learn from the people that they provide services to. They need exposure to the complexities and uniqueness of each individual.

They need experience working in partnership with clients, to understand how to assess their needs effectively.

This real-world experience will make them better practitioners and you will be helping to train the kind of practitioner you want.



A student's involvement in your care

All allied health students work under the supervision of a qualified health professional. The students have been trained by their university and have been prepared for their placement. However, they don't yet have the authority to provide services to clients on their own.

Students may be involved in your care in a range of ways, based on their skill level.

For example:

- talking to you about your situations and the issues that may be concerning you
- quiet observation
- conducting an assessment interview
- providing information about resources and supports available in the community
- helping you plan how to access the resources and services you require.

You may see the student alone, for part, or most of your consultation. The supervising practitioner always has final responsibility for your care.



Your rights as a client

Your consent is required each time a student attends your appointment or consultation.

You have the right to:

- refuse to let a student attend your consultation
- withdraw your consent at any time during the consultation (even if you have previously agreed)
- have the supervising practitioner in the room with the student if you wish.

Students must, by law, protect your privacy in the same way that qualified practitioners do.

For further information on clinical placements, go to:

<http://placements.iemml.org.au/patient-information>