“The program is entirely voluntary and your care is the primary concern   
of everyone involved.”

## What is the WoSSP program?

Students of all health professions spend part of their course learning on the job through placements with health services such as hospitals and general practice clinics.

WoSSP is a special clinical placement program. It gives students an opportunity to work together as an interprofessional team to take care of patients.

So, for example, a medical, nursing and physiotherapy student would follow a patient with chronic or complex health conditions as they deal with different aspects of the health system. By taking this ‘journey’ with patients, students get firsthand experience of the health system they’re dealing with.

Under strict supervision, the students work with a patient for [up to 10 weeks]. They go with them when they visit their GP and visit them at home once or twice for up to an hour. They might also work with other health professionals looking after the patient.

## What’s being asked of patients?

The program needs people willing to let students follow them though the health system. So we’re asking for the help of people in the [insert LGA] who live with chronic or complex health conditions. The program is entirely voluntary and your care is the primary concern of everyone involved.

You’ll be asked to sign a written consent before you take part. But at any time after that, you can pull out of the program or cancel appointments with students without notice. You can also ask certain services to be excluded from the students’ placement if you wish. You’re under absolutely no obligation to share everything or continue if you don’t wish to.

At the end of the program, you’ll be invited to complete a questionnaire. The information is used to improve the program for students and patients next time it’s run. All your responses are kept confidential. And once again, there’s no obligation to fill in the questionnaire if you don’t wish to.

## What about my privacy?

Your personal information is carefully protected. Students are bound by a special confidentiality agreement as well as the confidentiality policies of [insert name of health service] and Commonwealth privacy legislation. Nothing that identifies you is used in any case presentations or any other reports prepared by the students.

You should be aware though, that there may be times when the students or health service are bound by law to provide personal information to other professionals. This might happen for example if a patient is likely to harm themselves or others, or there is a child at risk.

## Who selects patients?

[insert name of health service] will invite patients with chronic or complex health conditions to be part of the program. If you decide to take part, your needs, care and safety are always given first priority.

## How do home visits and appointments work?

The small team of students you’ll be working with, will be in touch to arrange home visits and GP visits well *before* the date. You’re encouraged to talk with the students at that time about your needs and how long the visit will last. Visits should not last more than an hour, unless you have agreed to that beforehand. If the students need to cancel or change an appointment with you, they must give you plenty of notice. If *you* wish to cancel a home visit, you can do so without notice.

Students must log their home visits with the WoSSP clinical educator. All this information is kept confidential and stored by [name of health service].

Students are not permitted to undertake any unsupervised clinical work or transport patients to appointments or anywhere else.

## Need more information?

WoSSP program staff are happy to talk to you about any aspect of the program.

[Insert contact details]

[Name]

[Title]

[Phone number]

[Email]

Information for patients, carers   
and their families about the   
Whole-of-System Clinical Placements (WoSSP) program   
in [name of LGA]

**It takes   
patients to   
train a health professional**