

# DISCOVER

## iGEN



**iGEN** Learning  
InterGenerational Education Nexus

# What is iGEN?

In partnership with Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Mercy Education, Catherine McAuley College (CMC) and Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged are offering a unique opportunity for our Year 10 students and the Bethlehem residents to embark on an innovative new program in 2020.

Gain  
**REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE**  
in the aged care and  
healthcare sector



## DISCOVER

all the opportunities that a traditional classroom setting cannot offer

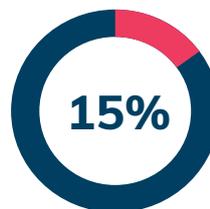


## INNOVATION

is a highly **sought after skill** with employers needing more people with innovative ideas and this is **ONE BIG INNOVATIVE IDEA.**

  
The health profession offers **great career progression** with an upwards path and income.

**JOB IN HEALTH ARE** career options that will never become obsolete. Health fields account for



**OF ALL JOBS** and with our ageing population, are a big growth area.

Jobs in health offer **flexibility** with work and extensive **travel options.**

UNIVERSITIES ARE LOOKING  
**BEYOND JUST THE ATAR**

when assessing  
**student applications**



**LEARN** from the  
**WISDOM**  
of the elderly



## New Ways of Learning



CMC aims for its students to leave Year 12 as well-rounded and prepared for life after school as possible. We do this by optimising academic results but also by providing opportunities for enhanced time management, resilience and empathy. Through experiential learning, iGEN students will participate in a program designed to develop skills, contribute to others' lives and our community. iGEN students will explore a myriad of employment and study pathways that Mercy Health and ACU can offer while also improving the experience of the Bethlehem residents and staff. Research in similar programs nationally and internationally has demonstrated that intergenerational partnerships benefit all participants.

## Pathways for the Future

In the initial phase, iGEN students will be transported to Bethlehem twice per week as a part of their integrated "Virtues" subject. As the program evolves and purpose-built facilities are completed, students will spend a significant part of their learning time based at Bethlehem, supported by teaching staff from CMC to ensure they are engaging in a meaningful curriculum that prepares them for either the VCE or VCAL pathways. Students will work with residents and staff to gain greater perspectives on all aspects of the Bethlehem business by studying VET subjects that link in with a particular area including Allied Health, Community Services, Sport and Recreation, Hospitality and Business Administration. Students who elect into the program in Semester 1, 2020 are not committed to the program beyond the initial phase, and similarly the opportunity will be opened up for other students beyond the first round.

ACU will be facilitating parts of the program to ensure best practice amongst teachers and staff while providing pathway opportunities for students through Certificate courses and guaranteed entry programs to University. ACU will also conduct ongoing research throughout the program so that any key learnings can be implemented in other systems, and to provide feedback on ways to iteratively improve the program.

Our intention is for iGEN students to complete a full semester predominantly at the Bethlehem home. Students will have a choice of three subject streams. In each pathway stream students will study curriculum that is in line with classes taught at CMC, so that all students have common background knowledge when entering their final school years. Each stream has a mix of core English and Maths classes and a range of integrated elective programs that are designed with particular pathways in mind.

Skills learned through an intergenerational program are many and varied, including

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

PROBLEM SOLVING

PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

RESEARCH

CONFIDENCE PRESENTING IDEAS

CRITICAL THINKING

ORGANISATION

These skills are going to be in greater demand in the future as technology disrupts many other industries.



**Over the course of a week students will have a mixture of direct classroom teaching and intergenerational learning. Intergenerational learning activities include:**

- Planning, conducting and evaluating resident activities (eg exercise classes, cooking, outings)
- Spending time with residents (eg recording their life story, hearing about historical events)
- Assisting with hospitality (setting menus, ordering supplies, working with budgets)
- Budgeting (medical supplies, food, lifestyle)
- Evaluating and assisting with policy and strategy within Bethlehem
- Having guest speakers to discuss different issues and professions linked with Aged Care
- Q&A sessions with a resident or student who has a particular condition/story/experience they are comfortable with sharing
- Public speaking/debates
- Maintenance activities
- Conducting research activities

**Timetable**

As Bethlehem is an operational facility, iGEN students will have a more flexible program than a traditional school based timetable. This will enable students to run programs and be engaged in a range of intergenerational learning activities. iGEN students will also have direct instruction in classrooms at Bethlehem and our CMC teachers on site will coordinate the program to ensure students can make the most of the opportunities Bethlehem presents.



**Pathway Streams**

**Interests**

- A** Allied Health, Medicine, Pharmacy
- B** Nursing, Psychology, Teaching
- C** Business, Economics, Hospitality

**Curriculum**

- Chemistry, Biology, Human Development, Physical Education, Psychology, VET Allied Health
- Psychology, Health and Human Development, Biology, VET Education Support
- Business Management, Economics, Food Technology, Hospitality, VET Community Services.

**How do I find out more?**

Students nominate at subject selections if interested in program. Shortlisting and further discussions with students/families Terms 3 and 4, 2019.

If you have any specific questions or just want to discuss further, please send an email to [iGen@cmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:iGen@cmc.vic.edu.au) and the project team will be happy to provide the details you are after.