Bachelor of Midwifery (Indigenous) Away from Base Enhancement Program

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In direct response to the evaluation three additional strategies were implemented in 2014 and 2015.

**Strategy 1**

**Student Learning Community**

A culturally inclusive platform that facilitates student interaction with peers and teachers. It enables students to access a web conference room to host meetings with other AFB BMid students or consult with academic staff and strengthen students’ sense of connection with the campus between ‘residentials’.

**Strategy 2**

**Clinical Facilitator Virtual Staff Room**

To creatively support curriculum and professional development for clinical industry partners in rural/remote placement settings who are often isolated, under resourced and unfamiliar with student learning requirements due to a low volume of placement activity.

**Strategy 3**

**Midwifery Education Resource Kit**

Resource support for rural/remote clinical agencies to enhance their midwifery education resources.

**Background and Context**

- In 2013, only 186 midwives employed in Australia identified as Indigenous (0.8% of all employed midwives).
- Bachelor of Midwifery (Indigenous) Away from Base (AFB BMid) is designed to prepare Indigenous midwives to lead midwifery services in their home communities and address the workforce shortage of Indigenous midwives.
- In 2013 the AFB BMid Enhancement Program project, supported by QRTN CTPIP grant funding implemented program enhancements and a comprehensive evaluation of these enhancements.

**Outcomes**

- Students report that the **Student Learning Community** has improved their connection with other students and the teaching team, and ability to communicate with peers about their program between ‘residentials’.
- The **Student Learning Community** strengthens contact between students and the Indigenous Lecturer in Midwifery.
- Enhanced support for clinical facilitators has resulted in strengthened relationships and improved preparedness for students undertaking placements.
- We plan to strengthen the **Student Learning Community** with a dedicated online orientation package and transition support program for commencing students.