

An innovative mentoring programme for first year students

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This poster will discuss a mentoring programme developed for first year nursing students at the University of Notre Dame, Western Australia. The aim of this programme was to ensure that new students have a smooth transition to university and are supported in the first year of the university programme. All students upon enrolment, are allocated a mentor who is an experienced nursing student in the 2nd or final year of the programme. The students will be contacted by their mentor initially and on a regular basis, have an informal meeting with them. The new students will be provided with pertinent information about university life, important information in regards to their studies and more importantly, have someone other than an academic as a point of contact should the need arises. All mentors attend a compulsory workshop on the principles of Mentoring prior to undertaking the role which provides them with skills and knowledge to be effective mentors. A survey was conducted on all mentors and mentees with positive results and feedback. This paper will showcase the innovative model used for this programme. Academic managers will benefit from introducing a programme such as this that supports first year undergraduate students.