The Pathway to Paramedicine Perspectives

Linda Ross

Lecturer
Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
+61 3 990 44407
Room 20, Building H2, Peninsula
Linda.Ross@monash.edu

Introduction
The Pathway to Paramedicine Program offered secondary school students with an interest in the paramedic discipline a unique opportunity to gain insight into both the profession and the training required. It was specifically targeted at underrepresented, low socioeconomic and indigenous students and aim to ultimately increase enrolments, eventual graduates and practitioners from these groups. This study aimed to evaluate the secondary school students' perspectives of the program.

Methods
This pilot intervention study using a paper based survey included 14 secondary school students enrolled in the Pathway to Paramedicine Program at Monash University in Melbourne, Victoria. The evaluation survey consisted of a combination of Likert and free text questions.

Results
All 13 Likert scale items received a median score of 4 (agree) or above. Ten items achieved a maximum median score of 5 (strongly agree). Nine items received a positive score of 4 or 5 from all the students. Participants also indicated they gained insight into the discipline and confidence in their own skills. Fifty percent of the Year 12 participants enrolled in paramedic degrees in 2014.

Conclusion
The Pathway to Paramedic Program gave secondary school students valuable insight into paramedic practice and helped them make a decision about their future education and career path. The study results showed that the students had a positive perspective of the program, enjoyed and appreciated their interaction with the paramedic student mentors and would recommend the program to others.