

# The opportunities and challenges of digital clinical nursing placement assessments. An Australian experience.

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## ABSTRACT

The School of Nursing and Midwifery implemented the digital clinical placement assessment to improve efficiency in monitoring and managing nursing students. The success of the process was achieved through nurtured relationships with key stakeholders.

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## Background

Digital learning technologies have transformed the teaching landscape over the past decades. Similarly, these technologies have also transformed clinical practice, with the digitisation of client management processes in hospitals. However, the interphase governing the training relationship between universities and hospitals has remained largely a traditional paper based process. The digital assessment process was implemented to improve efficiency in monitoring and managing nursing students on placements.

## The Pebble Pad Platform

PebblePad workbooks were used to convert the paper based tool to an interactive digital tool. The digital tool became a permanent electronic record of the student. The school created the workbook and the students shared them with clinical educators on placements to enable assessment.

## Key lessons

1. Investment in a student driven process reduces academic workload and increases success regardless of flexibility and intuitiveness of the technology.
2. Productive relationships with internal and external partners and expert groups should be nurtured by a committed group.
3. Central triage and problem solving service should be available for student and external partners.
4. Hospital partners inform the process to balance their needs for privacy and integrity of the assessment process.

## Recommendations

Digital clinical assessments thrive when productive relationships with technology providers, internal and external partners and expert groups are nurtured.

## REFERENCES

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## The Process

