



Media Release  
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## **GUC to meet future Mental Health Workforce needs**

Geraldton Universities Centre is responding to the growing need for social and mental health services in the regions, with some 20 students now studying in the Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Psychological Science.

Students studying in these CQUniversity programs, supported at GUC, are excited by their future prospects and the difference they could make in the community. For Social Work student Cathy Fox it's the opportunity to upskill in her chosen industry that made her return to study at GUC while for Psychological Science student Shaun Chester, it's the many options that will open up for him in the future that drew him to the course.

"Psychology is such a broad degree that I could later specialise as a clinical psychologist or work in education or forensics," Shaun said.

GUC students have an added advantage, being tutored by local industry professionals. Merle Meyer, accredited mental health social worker and Regional Manager of the Community Alcohol Drug Service, is one of them. She agrees that the Social Work and Psychological Science programs open up fantastic career options for students.

"We take a very holistic approach in Social Work working in the family context, with individuals or in a community setting," she said.

"In four years, you graduate with a profession that can take you into a diverse range of opportunities from counselling to child protection to diversionary programs. Your focus could be on youth, drug and alcohol related issues, mental health or child development just to name a few.

"And, graduates are in high demand."

There is also a range of pathways for entry into these programs.

"While students can and have entered Psychological Science and Social Work with a Year 12 ATAR, many of our current students have entered via the STEPS bridging program or through a pathway from the Durack Institute's Diploma of Community Services," GUC Director Natalie Nelmes said. "The Diploma pathway gives credit into Psychological Science and direct entry into the second year of the Bachelor of Social Work.

"There is also considerable cross over between Social Work and Psychological Science in first year so it gives people a chance to change between programs if they are initially unsure which way they should go."

Applications to study in 2016 are now open. For details on how to apply, please call Tiambra Calvin on 9920 4409.