

Dr Drew Dwyer – Professional Biography



Dr Drew Dwyer is known internationally as an inspiring, knowledgeable, passionate and engaging clinical leadership educator and mentor. He is a consultant gerontologist who completed a PhD (Med) in Evidence-Based Healthcare through the Joanna Briggs Institute at Adelaide University in South Australia. He also holds a master's degree in clinical science and undergraduate qualifications in Nursing and Applied Social Sciences (Psychology).

His passion is geriatric nursing and he has spent the last 15 years focussed on improving the care provided to our most vulnerable people by leading and advocating for change in the aged, community and disability care sectors. He currently sits as the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) representative on the Enrolled Nursing Industry Reference Committee that provides expert guidance to the Australian Industry Skills Committee (AISC) on the future of nursing training in Australia.

Dr Drew serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at the University of Queensland. In this role he uses his extensive career in practical on-the-floor nursing roles to encourage and motivate aspiring nurses to fully understand and embrace their role as clinical leaders. His combination of passion for people, professionalism, service and leadership leave an indelible mark on all of his students.

Dr Drew began his nursing career in the military, achieving several qualifications in aviation medical evacuation nursing, and paramedical Emergency Management of Severe Trauma (EMST). He has served on active service as a nurse with the Australian Army and seconded to the United Nations in Cambodia. During his long military service Drew also achieved qualifications in management/leadership and training and development.

Since his discharge from the Army in 2000, Drew has progressively shifted his career focus from practical nursing to learning and development in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, particularly in the aged and community care sectors, including counselling and case management. Drew has held Head of School roles with the Australian Institute of Workplace Learning and Group Colleges Australia, developing vocational courses in aged and community care. He currently sits of the Academic Board for the Australasian College of Care Leadership & Management, advising on the development of post-graduate qualifications for domestic and international students.

Dr Drew has authored numerous academic articles in publications such as the International Journal of Evidence Based Healthcare and Nursing and is a peer reviewer for the Australian Journal of Nursing and the Journal of International Journal of EBHC.

Specialising in multidisciplinary healthcare management and clinical governance frameworks, Dr Drew uses his high-level skills in transformational leadership, culture and change management, organisational design, culture shaping, insight and strategy development to help organisations struggling with the current pace and scope of change in healthcare.

His modern, ethical and progressive approach to leadership focuses on building mental and spiritual resilience and leading people through change in order to meet organisational goals and challenges.

Dr Drew works as a consultant gerontologist with Frontline Care Solutions, using his extensive experience and comprehensive understanding of the current aged care reform process to provide thoughtful, innovative and cost-effective proposals for clients, often working directly with senior executives and managers.