

## Community engagement = an enhanced curriculum

With a proven track record in providing community based modules in the dental and medical curriculum, the Well Connected team are able to offer unique opportunities to enhance curriculum through community engagement for other health based professions such as dietetics, nursing, optometry and podiatry etc.

Engaging directly with community based organisations our community experts can support and mentor students through experiential learning experiences in communities which provide a valuable insight into health and well-being for a variety of population groups. This approach encourages health professionals of the future to engage directly with people from different demographic and social groups. With an extensive network of partners across the region we can create projects and activities which enable students to experience unparalleled contextual learning which develops student's leadership, professionalism and communication skills in a 'real' environment.

The benefits of including a community and social engagement awareness theme in Curriculum are:

Team work	Communication	Inter Personal Skills
Responsibilities	People from range of backgrounds	Empathy and respect
Building trust	Engaging with other professionals	Listening
Prioritising	Meaningful materials and resources	Not to judge others

There is considerable 'added value' for students experiencing community and social engagement projects which include opportunities to publish papers in journals, give presentations at conferences, increase self confidence as well as developing transferable skills to the workplace and to evidence competencies in professional frameworks. Well Connected ensures students have an authentic opportunity to engage with community and voluntary sector groups.

