

REPORT: E-PORTFOLIO TRIAL 2016

Enhancing lifelong learning principles, professional identity and graduate capabilities through the introduction of ePortfolios.

1.1 Purpose of Trial

The purpose of the ePortfolio Trial was for students and staff to create an ePortfolio show casing their achievements, demonstrating their professional practice by mapping themselves to the ANMAC nursing standards and to identify an ePortfolio platform for potential use with the release of the new curriculum in 2017. The aim of the HSA ePortfolio is to capture both staff and student learning, engage students with their peers, encourage self-reflection and show-case staff and student achievements. The main outcomes and benefits HSA predict for staff and students from implementing the trial include:

- For staff: Staff will develop their own ePortfolio to demonstrate and show case the variety of ways the breadth and depth of a nurses work and professional affiliations can be demonstrated. The end product for staff will also ensure that HSA VET staff meet ASQA, VET professional currency and ANMAC regulatory professional development currency requirements by maintaining a visible and accessible e portfolio so that appropriate professional development calendars can be formulated.
- For students: ePortfolio is an achievable project for students and something they can utilise and access throughout their course and into the professional lives. It is a cumulative project that students will be able to see the benefits the more they use it. Their ePortfolio will make learning visible and will assist HSA students to develop reflections on clinical practice and use these reflections as a connection and scaffolding process to meet learning outcomes, competency achievement, graduate capabilities and work readiness to present to future employers. It will be used to showcase their achievements and as a learning tool to encourage lifelong learning principles and articulate connection to meet regulatory compulsory professional development hours in order to register with AHPRA.

1.2 Project Team

Navitas Professional

Scott Dickson

Health Skills Australia

Ingrid Devlin (Project Leader and Nurse Educator);

Megan Young (Senior Educator and Project Lead in the re development of the Diploma of Nursing);

Lindsay Bava (Head of School)

Navitas Limited

Erika Beljaars-Harris (Senior Manager / Lecturer, Learning and Teaching Innovation)

2.1 Research

Many platforms were explored during the research phase:

- Google Sites – <https://sites.google.com/>
- Weebly – <http://www.weebly.com/>
- Wikispaces – <http://www.wikispaces.com/>
- WordPress – <http://wordpress.org/>
- Mahara – <https://mahara.org/>
- PebblePad – <http://pebblepad.com.au/>
- VUMI – <http://www.vumi.com.au/>
- Wix <http://www.wix.com>
- Skillsbook <http://www.skillsbook.com.au>

On completion of the exploration phase of various platforms, HSA's key criteria for the aesthetics of the tool included: Fresh, New, Modern & User friendly.

These platforms were compared on the following criteria:

- Cost
- Graduate capabilities
- Ability to link to Moodle
- Continuous professional development
- Reflection
- Customisable
- Modern/ engaging appearance
- Easy use on phones and tablets
- Student to be able to continue to use post course
- Work readiness – place to create/upload CV and cover letter
- Introduction page-Nursing philosophy, goals and about me section
- Enrolled Nurse Standards of practice
- Graduate Capabilities
- Section for uploading documents and certificate
- Professional Contacts
- Progress Bar (Showing how far along the students are in completing their course/ePortfolio)
- Trial availability

From this comparison Pebble Pad was shown to best meet the needs; however, Pebble Pad did not offer free trials. Therefore, it was decided to trial both Wix and SkillsBook, based on the key criteria.

2.2 Method

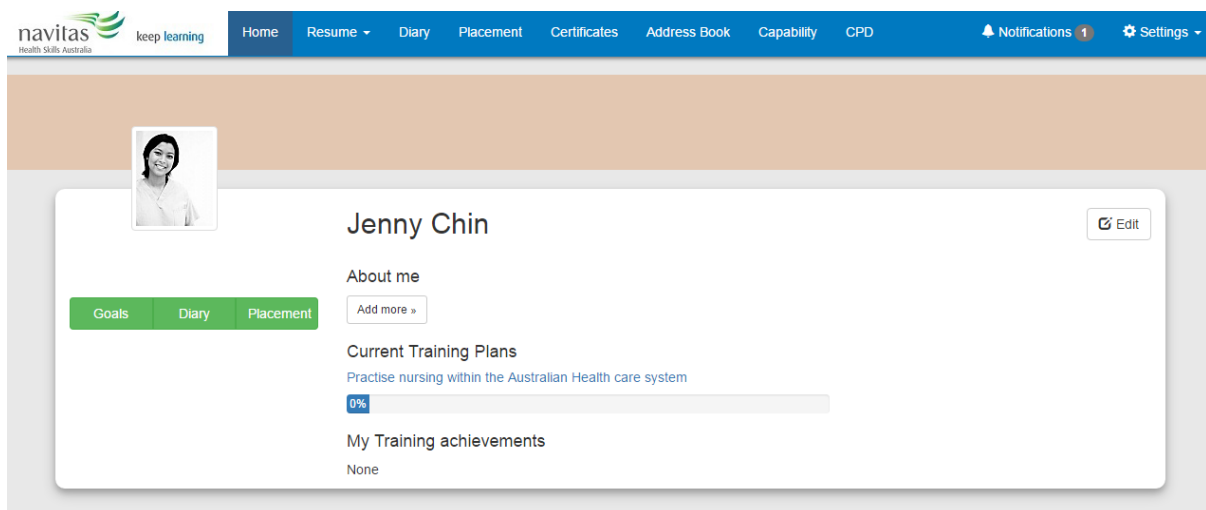
2.2.A Phase 1

Over the month of January, the ePortfolio trial was researched, planned and created. A mock ePortfolio on Wix and SkillsBook was created to assist students and staff in creating their own ePortfolio and knowing what they could potentially create. The mock profile of Jenny Chin was created on both platforms to be trialled.



This above Wix example website can be accessed via ingriddevlin.wix.com/mockstudent and the password to access the reflection page is 'reflection' and CPD evidence page is 'Navitas'.

The SkillsBook example is as follows:



The trial was run from 29/2/16 – 27/5/16. Ingrid Devlin led the 13-week trial and enrolled six volunteer students and additional staff.

All trial participants:

- Completed a half-hour pre-survey (1/2 hour) (survey monkey) (See Appendix A)
- Watched an introduction video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5chuGEsT9g>

- Were introduced to both SkillsBook (paid) and Wix (free) and trialed both
- Attended a 'how-to' session on Wix and SkillsBook (3 hours)
- Explanation of the importance and how to map to the NMBA Standards for practice and the Graduate Capabilities.
- Were provided with two videos helpful for editing the platform Wix:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_YhW5-2cM0
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POilloOUUqQ>
- Attended a (1.5 hour) face-to-face 'check-in' session on how they are going (approximately week 5 of trial)
- Spent time on both platforms creating an ePortfolio
- Completed a 30-minute post survey (Survey Monkey) (See Appendix B)
- Attended an exit workshop (up to 3 hours)

Pre Trial (Week 1 and 2 of Term 1) 15/2/16 – 28/2/16

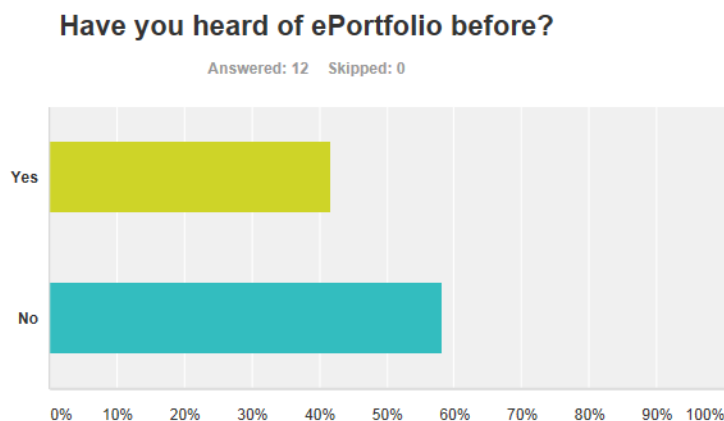
- Students (currently enrolled in Term 2 of their studies) and staff (only permanent nursing staff) were sent an invitation email offering them to volunteer to be involved in the trial. Trial students and staff sent their responses of interested to be involved in the trial by 24/2/16. Confirmation of trial participants was notified by 26/2/16.

2.2.B Phase 2

Week One to Three of Trial (Week 3 - 5 of Term 1) 29/2/16 – 18/3/16

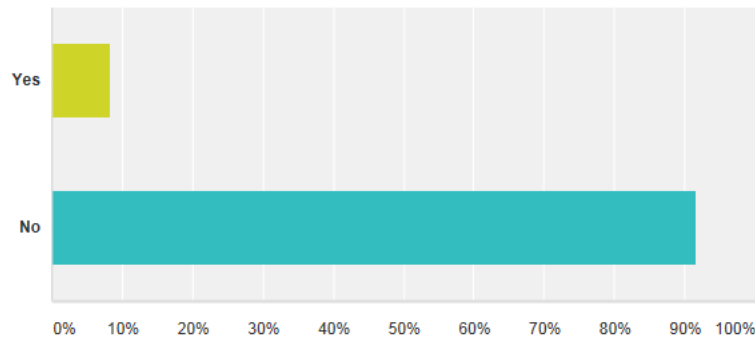
- Participants to complete first survey about ePortfolio
- Participants provided video on ePortfolio
- Student and staff participants attend an introduction session with Ingrid Devlin
- Participants commenced creating their ePortfolios. They were able to contact Ingrid Devlin during this time for extra support and could arrange an addition session if required. No participants took up this opportunity for extra support.

Results of Pre-Survey



Do you have an ePortfolio?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



In the pre-survey 58.33% of trial participants had never heard of ePortfolio before and 91.67% did not have an ePortfolio with participants stating they currently store their continuous professional development (CPD) and certificates on their computer or USB or in their filing cabinet.

When asked if storing their CV, cover letter, CPD and certificates in the one place would be of benefit 75% of participants stated 'absolutely' and 25% of participants stated 'yes'. One participant commented "I believe that ePortfolio will be a great tool for personal and professional development".

The greatest variance in the pre-trial survey was around participants' confidence in using computers. One participant stated they were 'very confident', eight participants stated they were 'confident' and three participants were 'neither confident or unconfident'. This flagged that some participants may require more support than others in achieving an ePortfolio. This confidence in computer use is reflected in the post-trial survey results.

Week Three of Trail (Week 5 of Term 1) 14/3/16 – Week eight of Trail (Week 10 of Term 1) 24/4/16

- In week five to week eight of the trial, participants were contacted to check in on their progress and to see how they are going and to support their progress.
- Participants continued to work on their ePortfolios and again they were offered the opportunity to contact Ingrid as required during this time and to arrange a one-on-one addition session if required. Some email support provided during this time to some participants and one one-on-one session with one participant with unconfident computer skills required support from Ingrid during this time.

2.2.C Phase 3

Week nine of Trial (Week 11 of Term 1) 14/3/16 – Week ten of Trail (Week 12 of Term 1) 24/4/16

- Participants were encouraged to aim for completion of their ePortfolio within these two weeks and forward to Ingrid Devlin for view and feedback. Three participants sent their ePortfolios and the remaining nine participants required more prompting to encourage completion.

Week eleven to week thirteen of Trial (Week 13 of Term 1 – end of term break) 9/5/16 – 27/5/16

- Student and staff participants attended an exit workshop. In this workshop participants presented their ePortfolios and completed the exit survey. All student participants were provided with a gift certificate for their involvement and both students and staff provided with certificates of participation in the trial. The overall verbal feedback from both staff and students of the trial was very positive.

2.3 Communication with Navitas

Throughout the trial two articles were written for the learning and teaching website to keep other divisions up to date with the HSA ePortfolio trial. These can be viewed at:

- <http://learningandteaching-navitas.com/ahead-of-the-rest-preparing-our-students-for-the-workplace/>
- <http://learningandteaching-navitas.com/exploring-the-pedagogy-of-eportfolios/>

A post trial article will be created for the Learning and Teaching website including a post on the completion of this report. Please refer to the Learning and Teaching website for this article.

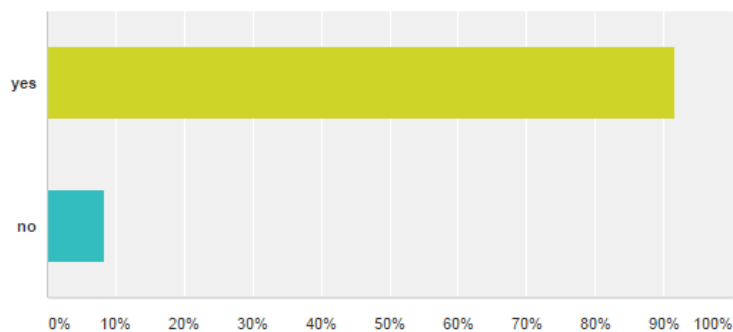
The progress of the trial was also shared with attendees of Ann Wilson's webinar on the 31/03/2016 on the Pedagogy of ePortfolios.

3.1 Results post-trial

91.67% of trial participants believing that implementing ePortfolio will benefit students and staff at HSA. One participant stated that the ePortfolio is a “Perfect way to display your academic results, resume [and] yourself”. Another stated “This is a very competitive industry and it is important to have any and all advantages to implement the skills we are learning in school. An up to date ePortfolio may be the difference between getting an interview and not”.

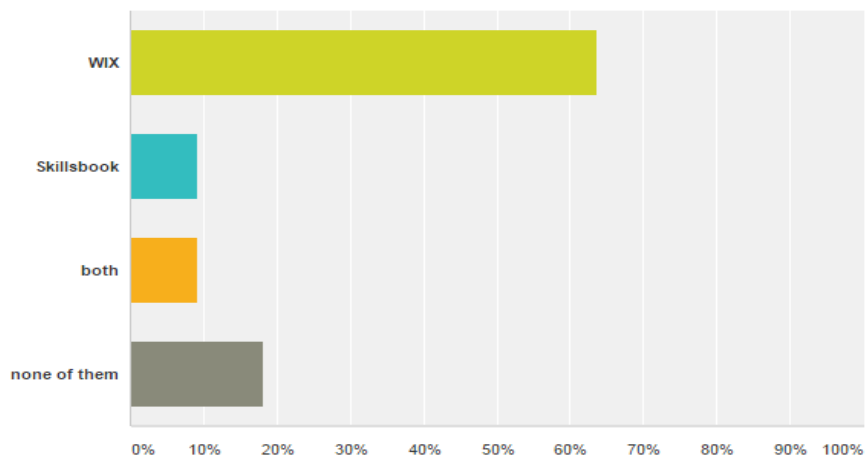
Do you think implementing ePortfolio will benefit students and staff at HSA?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



Which platform would you recommend to use and why?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 1



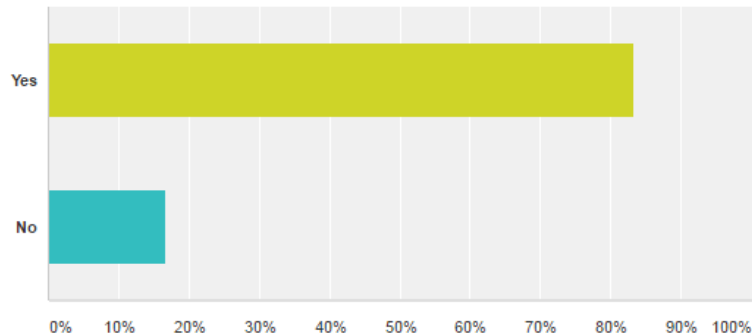
The final survey showed that 63.64% of participants recommended using Wix as a platform. However, some participants commented that Wix was “fiddly”, or that “those students with limited computer proficiency [will find this] difficult”. Only one participant recommended using SkillsBook as a Platform. Two participants recommended other platforms such as ‘PebblePad’ to be explored with one participant stating “Not convinced either of them are suitable for the HSA context. Would like to see Pebble Pad explored also”.

Another noteworthy result from the trial was that 83.33% of participants stated that they will continue to use their ePortfolio. One of these participants stated “100% I love it!... It makes

me feel good about my achievements and it is practical, if I need to pull up my CPD it's there, if I need to look back at a reflection, it's there. Everything in one place, I will defiantly continue to use Wix". Another participant stated "Thank you for introducing me to this great ePortfolio system, [it] has given me a head start in preparing my resume... it will make an immense difference [to the students] journey into [becoming] nurses".

Do you feel you will continue to use ePortfolio?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0

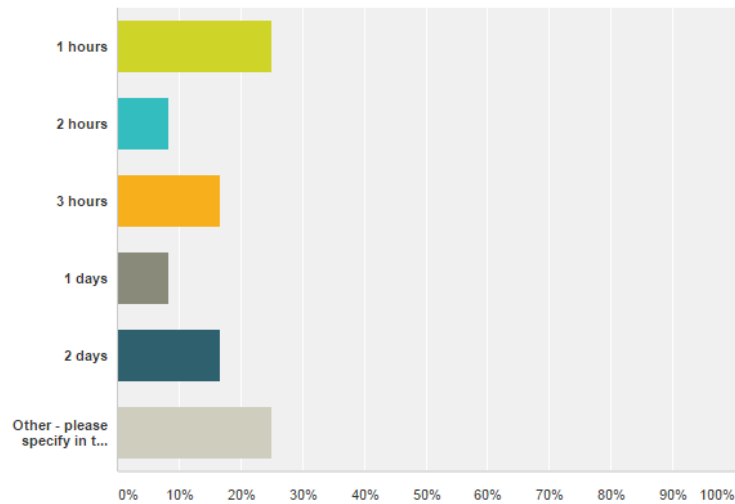


The two participants that would not continue with using their ePortfolio were for two different reasons. One participant stated that they did not think it would benefit them and that they would prefer to continue using their current method of storing it in Microsoft Word. The other participant who would not continue using their ePortfolio stated "It is a public platform... and I don't want my information on the net". The second participant's feedback around security is valid and presents HSA with an area to consider moving forward with implementing an ePortfolio platform to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of users is maintained.

Another interesting outcome was that not one of the participants successfully completed their ePortfolios in all sections in the time allocated. The two sections that no participants completed were mapping themselves to the NMBA standards and graduate capabilities with some participants deleting these sections all together. This was despite providing examples of how to complete these sections and verbal encouragement throughout all three phases of the trial. This outcome demonstrates that this will be an area that requires attention and facilitation to ensure these sections are met by participants.

How much support do you think will be required for students/staff to learn how to create an ePortfolio?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0

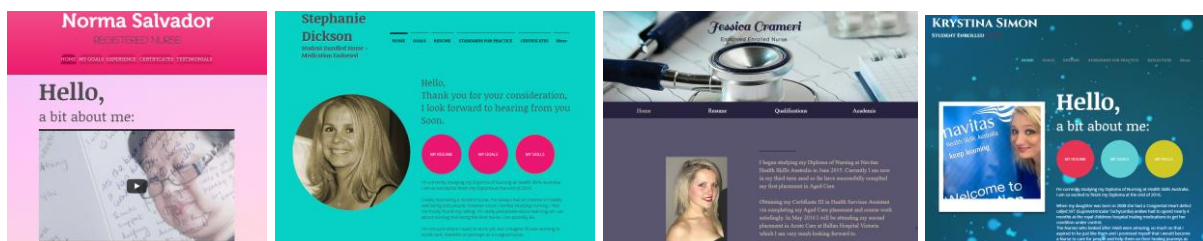


Answer Choices	Responses
1 hours	25.00% 3
2 hours	8.33% 1
3 hours	16.67% 2
1 days	8.33% 1
2 days	16.67% 2
Other - please specify in the comment box	25.00% 3
Total	12

When participants were asked how much support will be required to learn the ePortfolio, the answers ranged from one hour of support - to two days. The participants' comments relating to the extended support time were linked to their increased need for technology support. One participant stated "Some students may not be computer literate". Another participant commented that "those students with limited computer proficiency, [will find] this difficult!"

3.2 Trial Participants ePortfolios

ePortfolios created by the participants that were willing to share can be viewed below:



3.3 Recommendations

As a result of this trial, seven key recommendations should be considered before implementation:

- 1.** With an overwhelming 91.67% of trial participants believing that implementing an ePortfolio will benefit students and staff at HSA, it is highly recommended that HSA implement an ePortfolio platform with the new curriculum. The trial results have demonstrated that in the era of technology there is a need for HSA to integrate ePortfolio's into the curriculum. This will enable both our students and staff to be "ahead of the rest" with a professional showcase of who they are as nurses, ability to demonstrate their competence to nursing standards and storage of reflections and continuous professional development. This integration into the course will be an excellent addition to the Diploma of Nursing for students and staff enhancing their lifelong learning and professional identity.
- 2.** It is recommended that HSA does not proceed with SkillsBook as a platform as only one trial participant recommended SkillsBook.
- 3.** Regardless of the ePortfolio tool HSA implements, it is recommended that there are strict policies related to security to alleviate any concerns students or staff may have in relation to information that will go onto their ePortfolio. As participation with an ePortfolio will be mandatory this has the potential to alienate those students and staff with security concerns.
- 4.** The results have shown that both students and staff will require technological support to create their ePortfolio. As such, it is recommended that further investigation on this item is addressed before implementation of an ePortfolio tool.
- 5.** Due to no participants mapping themselves to the NMBA standards of practice and graduate capabilities, it is highly recommended that this will need to be facilitated early on in the implementation phase of Term one and two in 2017 to ensure students can gain an understanding of what the NMBA standards of practice and graduate capabilities are and why they are so important for job outcomes and their future in the industry. They will require support and follow up to ensure completion in these areas.
- 6.** Although Wix was highly recommended to use as a platform for an ePortfolio and there are many benefits to using Wix such as 'free', it does have limitations around ensuring security for users. Furthermore, a lack of ability to monitor students use and support them on their ePortfolio sites is also a plausible issue.
- 7.** It is recommended that HSA continues to further explore the use of PebblePad as a platform; which from earlier research appears to best meet the balance between use, visual aesthetics and security.

3.4 References

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Appendix A

ePortfolio Trial pre survey

1. Have you heard of ePortfolio before?

If yes, in what way?

2. Do you have an ePortfolio?

3. How would you rate your confidence in using computers?

very unconfident not confident neither confident or unconfident confident very confident

 very unconfident

 not confident

 neither confident or unconfident

 confident

 very confident

4. Where do you currently store your continuous professional development (CPD)?

5. Where do you currently store your certificates?

6. Is it often a lot of effort for you to gather the documents required when applying for new positions?

Why?

7. Would storing your CV, cover letter, CPD and certificates in the one place benefit you?

not at all

no

not sure

yes

absolutely

 not at all

 no

 not sure

 yes

 absolutely

8. Any comments?

Thank you for participating in our trial :)

Appendix B

ePortfolio Trial post survey

1. Do you feel you are now better prepared for job applications and meeting your ANMAC requirements?

Why? / Why not?

2. How much support do you think will be required for students/staff to learn how to create an ePortfolio?

Please explain your choice

3. When using Wix. What did you think of this platform?

terrible

bad

neither good or bad

good

excellent

terrible
 bad
 neither good or bad
 good
 excellent

what is your reason for this?

4. When using SkillsBook. What did you think of this platform?

terrible

bad

neither good or bad

good

excellent

terrible
 bad
 neither good or bad
 good
 excellent

what is your reason for this?

5. What did you think of the visual look/aesthetics of both platforms?

6. How much time and effort did you spend creating your ePortfolio?

7. Which platform would you recommend to use and why?

Why?

8. Do you think implementing ePortfolio will benefit students and staff at HSA?

Why? / Why not?

9. Do you feel you will continue to use ePortfolio?

What is your reason for this?

10. Thank you for participating in our trial :)

Any comments?