



## Competency 3 | Role clarification

# Interprofessional Practice

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### What is role clarification?

In understanding and developing their own roles, health professionals also consider the roles of others as part of the larger healthcare team. Along with understanding and describing their own roles, health professionals are able to describe the roles of other health providers.

This understanding helps avoid duplication and gaps in service. This enhances team work and enables all health professionals to work to their full scope of practice allowing more effective planning, implementation and evaluation of services.

### How does it work?

Health professionals understand and respect the roles, responsibilities and competencies of all other healthcare team members. They:

- respect the cultures of their community
- use appropriate language to communicate their roles, knowledge, skills and attitudes
- consult with others in appropriate ways to access their skills and knowledge
- build professional and interprofessional competencies and roles into service delivery.

### Example:

*Following a serious traffic accident, a number of injured people are transported by Queensland Ambulance Services to the local Emergency Department. The ambulance team have provided emergency medical care and conduct a handover with the Emergency Department team who take over medical care. This team includes Medical Officers, nursing, allied health and administrative staff. Each member of the team must communicate effectively with each other throughout the process while understanding the areas where individual roles and responsibilities may complement each other or overlap.*

### Outcome

Where are knowledge and skills unique and where are they shared? Health professionals use this information to design and implement health care plans that best meet the patient's needs, maximise each health professional's time and distributes the workload more appropriately among team members.



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### For more information:

Allied Health Education and Training

t. 07 4699 8097

e. [ahet@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ahet@health.qld.gov.au)

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