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<http://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/138/155>

## **The Professional Socialisation of Paramedics: The Transition from Intern to Qualified Paramedic.**

Scott DEVENISH<sup>1</sup>, Michele CLARK<sup>2</sup> and MaryLou FLEMING<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Clinical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology, Australia, [scott.devenish@qut.edu.au](mailto:scott.devenish@qut.edu.au); <sup>2</sup>School of Clinical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology, Australia; <sup>3</sup>School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

The professional socialisation of paramedics encompasses preconceptions developed during childhood and early adulthood, and subsequent changes in perceptions resulting from university studies, clinical placements and encountering the professional workplace as an employee. This study investigates the professional socialisation of university educated paramedics making the transition from paramedic intern to qualified paramedic. Participants were sought from several of Australia's larger ambulance services and UK NHS Ambulance Trusts to take part in this study. Participants were recruited through Ambulance Service Research Institutes, Clinical Governance Departments and university databases. To be included in this study, participants were required to be university educated, have completed a professional internship year and achieved qualified or registered paramedic status. Data collection was via face to face semi-structured interviews. Transcripts were analysed using socialisation models from the nursing and allied health disciplines and a grounded theory approach. The study found that participants initially enjoyed their new professional status after completing their internship and becoming qualified paramedics. However, for many the excitement of becoming a qualified paramedic was short lived. Newly qualified paramedics experienced increased levels of responsibility and were required to develop mentoring skills while still adjusting to their new roles. Participants had to contend with inner conflicting views about the reality of paramedic work which were developed through preconceptions and experiences as paramedic interns. The transition from paramedic intern to qualified paramedic is reportedly a challenging experience, as newly qualified paramedics are required to deal with added complexities while still adjusting to their new roles.