**Abstract submitted for the 4th Rural Health and Research Congress Armidale 4-6 November 2015**

**Congress Stream** No 6. Connecting through transfer – right care, right place, right time

**Alternate Stream** No 4. Partnerships and integrated care – connecting rural people and services

**Abstract Title** Connecting with rural generalist nurses through a needs-based eLearning program to support and enhance excellence in patient care

**Authors Maureen Winn and Liz Prudom,**

Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) Gladesville NSW 2111 Australia

**Background**

The Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) works with Local Health Districts (LHDs), Specialty Health Networks and key partners to develop and deliver world-class education resources. These align with State Health Plans.

An LHD identified the need to further support rural and remote nurses, who often work in an environment without immediate access to key health professionals. A workforce survey identified five areas of learning need. Further analysis informed the key elements within these five areas.

**Approach**

The Nursing and Midwifery portfolio at HETI have collaborated with clinical experts to develop a Rural Generalist Nurse program based upon survey results that highlighted the need for additional learning support in Mental Health, Aged, Paediatric and Palliative Care, and Comprehensive Assessment.

An eLearning platform will deliver the program using learning methods such as discussion points, reflection and the use of gamification (using a game approach) to highlight the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed by rural nurses to care for patients and their families.

**Outcomes**

HETI engaged with rural experts to build a targeted program addressing specific learning needs through gamification, discussion and reflection, available to nurses online, 24/7.

**Take Home Message**

Rural generalist nurses have access to an eLearning program designed specifically to enhance care delivery to the people of rural and remote NSW.