

## **Are our international students using the health system effectively?**

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By use of a survey, this study looks at the use of the Australian health system by 368 pre-tertiary international students. Issues raised by the results include the amount of medication they use and the sourcing of that medication, the use of family and friends as sources of medical advice rather health professionals, the inappropriate use of hospitals for medical treatment, and their reasons for not seeking medical treatment when they believed that it was justified. Their levels of satisfaction with medical treatment received and their view of the accessibility of medical treatment are also investigated. The results reveal a complex situation where greater education of international students about the health system and greater flexibility and cultural sensitivity on the part of health professionals are required.