

## GENERATION "Y" STUDENTS ON PRACTICE: PRACTICE EDUCATORS' VIEWS

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**Introduction:** Generation "Y" students in Australia are intrinsically different from other generations. They are a privileged group having been brought up as being "*treasured*" and "*precious*". They are used to playing with technology and having the latest gadgets. They multi-task and get easily bored needing stimulating all the time in a one way avenue rather than a two way street. As researchers, we were curious to see if practice educators were aware of these traits.

**Method:** A qualitative questionnaire was designed from the literature using closed questions for demographic information and open-ended questions asking about the practice educators' perceptions of the positive and negative attributes of this generation, any educational practices that challenged them and what they believed this generation could offer the profession in the future.

**Results:** There were two groups of respondents, those of the same generation but slightly older, and the other group that fell into Generation "X", the older group. Responses were broken down for comparison. Several changed educational strategies were reported. Supervision times were given in shorter more frequent bursts with feedback being direct and immediate. Students were given more freedom to work in areas they were confident with and were given study time to make up for the information they needed to learn in a self-directed manner. Practice used YouTube to show how pieces of equipment were used and students were encouraged to learn from a variety of media. Projects within practice were also successful.