

## Future Stories: Co-Designing Virtual Reality (VR) Experiences with Young People with a Serious Illness in Hospital

### Abstract

Hospitalisation can be a challenging experience for young people, including higher levels of anxiety, social isolation, and depression. In this webinar I will share the details of an applied theatre pilot that aimed to combine co-designed virtual reality (VR) approaches with intermedial work with young people in hospital. Within the pilot study we worked with three participants in individualised bedside workshops over a four-week period. Analysis from the pilot demonstrated the significance of the co-design process leading to greater degrees of agency for young people, and opportunities for the participants to share experiences with medical staff, carers, and siblings.

### Bios

**SPEAKER:** Professor Michael Balfour, University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Michael Balfour is Professor of Theatre and Performance at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney, Australia. His research explores applied theatre and performance work in a range of social contexts. His most recent publication is *Performing Arts in Prisons: Creative Perspectives* (Intellect, 2019). [Link to full profile](#)

**DESIGNATED ACADEMIC:** Emeritus Professor Robyn Ewing, Co-Director of CREATE Centre, University of Sydney

Formerly a primary teacher, Professor Emerita Robyn Ewing AM is Co-Director of the Creativity in Research, Engaging the Arts, Transforming Education Health and Wellbeing (CREATE) Centre in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney. She is a passionate advocate for the transformative role that the Arts can and should play in our lives and learning. [Link to full profile](#)