1.0 MSC MAJOR CHANGE SUBMISSION (06/0003104_06/0003092 revised)  
1093 B HEALTH SCIENCE  

1.1 The Griffith Health Board (Faculty) on the recommendation of the School of Medical Science is asked to recommend to Programs Committee the major change submission recommending introduction of three new majors and changes to the program structures of existing majors within the Bachelor of Health Science program, effective Semester 1, 2007. The changes are summarised as follows:  

1.2 It is proposed that students may either undertake a non-specialised Bachelor of Health Science or the Bachelor of Health Science with a major in one of 5 specialisations: Clinical Science, Molecular Medicine, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, Human Genetics and Microbiology.  

The new majors are as follows:  

Biochemistry / Molecular Biology  
Human Genetics  
Microbiology  

The changes to existing majors are summarised below:  

The proposed changes to the existing Clinical Science and Molecular Medicine majors will add flexibility to the 2nd year of the program and clearly define which courses are to be undertaken to complete the respective majors. There changes will be necessary as a result of the introduction of the three new majors to the Bachelor of Health Science program.  

1.3 The proposal to introduce additional majors and change existing majors from Semester 1, 2007 is in response to the following factors:  

- The review of teaching in School of Medical Science conducted in 2005 by an independent panel identified a need for the introduction of majors.  
- The Bachelor of Health Science has been adopted by the alternative therapies industry, leading to confusion in the market place. It is important to clearly define the knowledge base and skills of our graduates.  
- The School of Medical Science (previously Health Science) is focussed on health and research in key areas of Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, Genetics and Microbiology and it is important that we identify our degree program with these interests in mind.  
- The School is responsible for delivery of courses in these key discipline areas across the Health Group. Two significant research centres, the Genomics Research Centre and Heart Foundation Research Centre are closely aligned with the School.
1.4 The program changes are designed to provide more choice to undergraduates whilst clearly defining their expected program of study and to clearly indicate the true nature of the Bachelor of Health Science being awarded by Griffith University. Student enrolments are expected to be maintained or enhanced with a degree offering specialisations, and the structure will also facilitate the transition from one specialisation to another without loss of credit.

1.5 The introduction of new majors will provide greater specialist employment opportunities for graduates within the areas of health science and health research. There is a high and increasing demand for trained specialist graduates within the clinical sciences, resulting in part from the growth and development of technologies in clinical diagnosis and therapy. The particular skills of graduates with a Bachelor of Health Science need to be readily identifiable. Having a major in a particular academic discipline achieves this purpose. No changes to admission requirements, program length or Honours admission requirements are proposed.

**Recommendation**

1.6 The Griffith Health Board (Faculty) on the recommendation of the School of Medical Science is asked to recommend to Programs Committee the major change submission recommending introduction of three new majors and changes to the program structures of existing majors within the Bachelor of Health Science program, effective Semester 1, 2007.

**For consideration**