

Overview: ACDHS Clinical Education Working Group

Please use this overview to discuss the work of the ACDHS Clinical Education Working Group with colleagues who may be interested in contributing to one or more of the focus areas.

Introduction

The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) is the peak representative body of Australian universities that provide pre-professional education in the allied health sciences. ACDHS adopts a whole of health system perspective, and is a strong advocate for the role and contribution of the allied health professions.

The Council provides a forum for representation, coordination and information sharing, and aims to strengthen the education of allied health practitioners in Australia to meet the needs of communities. With an ageing Australian population and the growth of chronic disease, the allied health professions will be critical to providing adequate and appropriate health care to the Australian population.

Background

The requirements and expectations about the volume, quality, setting and availability of clinical education (CE) have been long standing discussion points at ACDHS meetings.

Drivers for ongoing discussions include

- CE capacity of health service providers
- Growth in enrolments in health programs
- Expectations about the quality of CE placements
- Consistency within and across professions
- Portability
- Transferability of CE learning across CE placement settings
- Variability in hours in accredited programs
- Lack of substantive evidence base for specified CE requirements
- Authority

ACDHS has formed a working group to consider issues relating to allied health clinical education and will adopt a leading role in clinical education discussions. The working group is chaired by Professor Kathy Refshauge of Sydney University. Members include

- Professor Esther May, University of South Australia
- Professor Catherine Itsiopoulos, La Trobe University
- Professor Terry Haines, Monash University
- A/Professor Lisa Hanna, Deakin University
- Professor Megan Smith, Charles Sturt University
- Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson, University of Queensland

Aim and initial outputs

The aim of the working group has evolved from developing a shared vision and evidence based framework for clinical education to one of changing practice and culture related to clinical education.

The initial outputs planned by the working group are a series of papers for publication. The papers will include an introductory paper to provide the context and key issues with subsequent papers addressing topics as such as models of clinical education and supervision, the contribution/value of students, discussion on competence and capability. Case studies may be used to illustrate key points within the papers.

The content of the papers would inform the advocacy work of the Council and conversations with key health service partners and stakeholders. Conference presentations by working party members will provide further avenues for engaging stakeholders in discussions about the education of the future health workforce.

Working group members, while taking a lead role in the development of papers, will co-opt members of the Council and university colleagues to develop the draft papers for internal review prior to submission to identified journals. Professor Sue McAllister of Sydney University is the first of the co-opted members.

The following are draft areas of work and working group members who have agreed to take a lead role. It is recognised that areas may overlap and focus areas may change as the work evolves. Communication between members will be important and supported by the ACDHS secretariat where required. Members of the ACDHS Working Group on Clinical Education will form the Steering Group for this work.

Broad focus area	Council lead	Colleagues contributing
Introductory paper- context/issues	Catherine Itsiopoulos	Sue Mc Allister
Value of students	Kathy Refshauge	&..
Models of clinical education/ /quality of supervision/service delivery	Kathy Refshauge	Terry Haines
Competence/capability discussion	Esther May	Sarah Roberts- Thomson
Economics/incentives value/at what point or when do students add value	Terry Haines	Catherine Itsiopoulos
Emerging paper/s from the above		

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Further information can be obtained from members of the working group or Robyn Adams, Executive Officer, Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences acdhs@jcu.edu.au 070 4781 5806