

# Using simulation to educate transdisciplinary learners: an effective competency based education strategy?

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## Background:

Transdisciplinary practice, which extends clinicians to practice beyond the scope of their traditional professional boundaries, is a growing model of healthcare delivery.

There is a clear knowledge gap in the literature, describing effective education methods for trans-disciplinary learners. Ad hoc and ineffective workplace based approaches are commonly used to train clinicians in transdisciplinary competencies.

This project explored the effectiveness of a standardised patient simulation for educating non occupational therapist emergency department care coordinators, at a metropolitan teaching hospital, to competently complete occupational therapy based transdisciplinary assessment and treatment planning for patients presenting with dementia.

## Methods:

Participants engaged in a simulation, with an actor portraying a patient with cognitive impairment, followed by a group debrief discussion. Evaluation data was collected using semi-structured focus groups, to elicit participant and facilitator perceptions of the simulation effectiveness, and features of the simulation that enabled or posed barriers to education. Thematic analysis of verbatim transcripts was completed.

## Results:

Five themes emerged from the qualitative data. The majority of participants supported simulation as an effective education method for this topic. Suggestions to enhance the simulation, to more effectively meet the needs of transdisciplinary learners, were identified by participants and facilitators.

## Discussion:

As workforce demands escalate, training staff to conduct interventions traditionally completed by other disciplines is an increasingly common expectation. This presentation reports the outcomes of implementing a best practice solution to education of trans-disciplinary learners. The results are widely applicable to other forms of allied health education both beyond scope of traditional practice and across disciplines.