

Transition support program for allied health graduates – the how and the who

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4 Melbourne Metropolitan Cross-Site Cluster

Background

The Melbourne Metropolitan Cross-Site Cluster (MMCSC) was established in 2014 between four specialist Melbourne health services - Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Royal Children's Hospital, Royal Women's Hospital and Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. The cluster was awarded a one-off project grant from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to design, implement and evaluate an inter-professional program that supports the transition of its Graduate/Intern Allied Health Professionals (AHP) to practice.

Methods

A six session program running across six months was developed by the MMCSC for roll out between July and December 2015. The program incorporated extensive feedback received from similar programs run at individual sites and was guided by the MMCSC working group. A detailed running sheet for each session was developed and the location and presenters of each session was distributed across the cluster organisations. A participant paper and pencil evaluation will be completed at the end of each session.

Results

The key content of the 6 sessions - Who's who in the zoo (Organisational frameworks), Who cares (Resilience and Wellness), Who are you looking at (Professional shadowing activity), Look who's talking (Communication in the workplace), Whose Shoes (Emotional Cues) and Where are you headed and who will you be (Professional Development) - will be discussed. The results of the participant evaluation of the first four sessions will also be presented.

Discussion

This cross site transition program is the first of its kind in Melbourne. The details of the session content and evaluation will be useful for any health service interested or involved in inter-professional transition programs for AHP. The value of considering collaboration amongst health services with smaller numbers of AHP to facilitate effective transition programs will be highlighted.