

Student supervisor skills development program

Tracie McRorie¹, Leonie Pearce²,

1 Nutrition and Dietetics Department, Austin Health, PO Box 5555, Heidelberg, VIC, 3084, tracie.mcorrie@austin.org.au

2 Nutrition and Dietetics Department, Austin Health, PO Box 5555, Heidelberg, VIC, 3084, leonie.pearce@austin.org.au

Background: Austin Health is a tertiary health service with a major emphasis on teaching and training. An organisational priority at Austin Health is 'An excellent place to work and learn'. The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics is a clinical school of Deakin University and has a strong commitment to dietetic student education. It is therefore imperative that student supervisors are adequately trained and prepared prior to supervising students.

Method: In 2010 the Student Supervisor Skills Development Program (SSSDP) was developed for staff inexperienced in, or wanting to, extend their skills in dietetic clinical student supervision. The program was implemented in 2011 and includes familiarisation with, and discussion about, key aspects of the clinical education literature, and information about the model of education in place at Austin Health. Key features of the program are observation of an experienced supervisor completing goal setting, providing feedback and completing a competency assessment with a student. A Clinical Educator facilitates the program and staff members meet with the Department Manager and are presented with a certificate once the program is completed.

Results and Discussion: Nine staff members have completed the SSSDP. Following completion of the program each staff member completed a qualitative self evaluation form and also met with a Clinical Educator and the Department Manager. All staff found the program beneficial and reported feeling confident as a student supervisor. In addition, all would recommend the program to other staff.

Conclusion: The combination of theory and practical application in the specific aspects of our student training model at Austin Health has lead to increased confidence in student supervision by staff and management.