

Design and implementation of a benchmarking process for determining comparability and predictability of clinical placement offers

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Background

Since 2008 the Queensland Physiotherapy Placement Collaborative (QPPC) with representative membership from Queensland education providers and the Queensland Public Health System (QPHS) has undertaken a state-wide centralised process for the allocation of physiotherapy clinical placements. This process has resulted in a coordinated, equitable and collaborative approach to building sustainable physiotherapy student placement capacity and quality across Queensland. Furthermore, this process has resulted in the collection of a significant amount of data in order to understand clinical placement supply and demand. In 2013 a new benchmarking process was designed and implemented to investigate and analyse if a relationship existed between QPHS staff establishment and clinical placement offers.

Methods

The primary aim of the benchmarking investigation was to create parity and equality in clinical placement offers from QPHS in order to better predict and understand clinical placement capacity. The benchmarking process involved analysis of clinical education resourcing and placement offers; data collection (clinical placement offers; staff establishment) and data analysis (including peer group stratification). Following data analysis and peer group benchmarking, a formula was developed in order to recommend minimum physiotherapy clinical placement offers, based on clinical education resourcing and staff establishment.

Results

A current state analysis of clinical placement offers and staff establishment was undertaken and used as a comparator, indicator and predictor of placement offers from the QPHS. This benchmarking review compared the direct relationship between clinical placement offers and staff establishment, revealing a strong correlation coefficient of 0.77. Originally designed and implemented in 2013, the benchmarking analysis has been repeated annually (2013-2015) to aid the prediction of physiotherapy placement offers.

Discussion

This presentation will review the indicators of physiotherapy clinical placement offers within the QPHS by outlining the benchmarking process and analysis used to recommend a physiotherapy placement offers formula. This analysis revealed a strong relationship between staff establishment and placement offers as a predictor of total placement offers across QPHS peer groups.