

Allied health clinical training patterns in Victoria

Sam Green¹, Tracie Andrews²,

1 Department of Health and Human Services, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, sam.green@dhhs.vic.gov.au

2 Department of Health and Human Services, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, tracie.l.andrews@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Background

The Department of Health and Human Service's Expanded Settings Program leads the strategic development and implementation of initiatives to promote clinical training in expanded settings. Expanded settings are defined as organisations which sit outside the public health sector and include, but are not limited to, Aboriginal Health, Aged Care/Disability, Community Health, Mental Health, Private Health and Professional Practice. In 2013, Allied Health disciplines were responsible for 37% (approx. 170,000 days) of the clinical training that occurs in expanded settings.

Purpose

To support the objectives of the program, a data analysis has been undertaken examining the clinical training patterns of allied health disciplines in expanded settings. The intention of the analysis is to inform the strategic direction of clinical training in expanded settings to respond to an ageing population, changes in the way health care is delivered (ie. introduction of Primary Health Networks, National Disability Insurance Scheme), curriculum requirements of education providers and future workforce demands

Results

This project has examined the clinical training patterns of twenty allied health disciplines in Victoria. Current analysis has highlighted clinical training trends by sector, location and setting. Comparisons will be made with workforce, profession and healthcare data.

Preliminary Findings:

- The professional practice sector accounts for less than 7% of all physiotherapy clinical training in Victoria.
- Between 2011 and 2013 podiatry placements decreased in expanded settings by 22%, whilst increasing in public health services by 18%.
- Less than a quarter of allied health expanded settings placements occur in regional Victoria.

Summary

This data illustrates the current clinical training patterns for allied health disciplines within expanded settings. The data is in informing future initiatives to enhance allied health clinical training within expanded settings, whilst identifying barriers which are currently prohibiting an increase in capacity.