

Assessing student and supervisor satisfaction of Clinical Nutrition placements.

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Background

The Melbourne Health Clinical Nutrition Department, in 2014 provided clinical placements for both La Trobe and Deakin Universities. This equated to 1132 student teaching days. The aim of this study was to assess the satisfaction of clinical placements at Melbourne Health.

Methods

An online survey was emailed to supervisors and students at the completion of each clinical placement. The survey consisted of 15 statements, scored using a 5-point Likert scale where higher scores reflected a stronger agreement. Responses were grouped as positive (score 4 or 5), neutral (score 3) or negative (score 2 or 1).

Questions were grouped into the following four themes: 'Welcoming and Belonging', 'Teaching and Learning', 'Competence and Confidence' and 'Feedback'.

Results

A total of 17 supervisors (65% response rate) and 21 students (47% response rate) completed the survey.

There was a higher number of positive responses from supervisors as compared to students in the theme of Teaching and Learning, 86% compared to 74% respectively. Supervisors had a 100% positive response in the theme of 'Feedback' compared to 89% positive response from the students.

The lowest satisfaction for supervisors was associated with adequate time, with 29% of respondents indicating they had insufficient time for clinical tasks and only 65% felt they had appropriate time for student teaching and training.

Student satisfaction was lowest relating to adequate time to observe supervisor's only 33% of students indicating adequate opportunities for observation. In 43% of student respondents felt peer observation was an important part of placement.

Conclusion

The results of this study indicate an overall positive satisfaction from both students and supervisors within each theme. Although experience, expectations and the students' individual progress could have influenced satisfaction, further investigation into areas of dissatisfaction is important to ensure a positive teaching and learning experience for both students and supervisors.