

Development of simulated learning resources for Allied Health Assistants (AHA) training.

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Project summary

Background

Service access can be improved by employing AHAs working under AHP supervision, but access to supervised clinical placements is a barrier.

Project aim to develop simulated learning experiences and resources for use by AHPs aligned with performance criteria from the Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance focussing on physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, speech pathology and dietetics/nutrition. The Department of Health and Human services (DHHS) and TasTAFE engaged AHPs and AHAs to provide clinical input and expertise into the project. Funded by the Tasmanian Clinical Education Network, Local Innovations Fund.

Method

Supported by senior staff within the Tasmanian Health Organisations (THO), the project officer job shadowed AHAs to gain understanding of their roles and work context. The online environment was explored and a literature review of simulation templates undertaken. The developed template was used with working groups of AHPs and AHAs in each THO to develop contemporaneous scenarios applicable to the workplace settings across the 5 professions for selected competencies and mapped against the Certificate IV for each scenario. The AHPs and AHAs from community and acute worked collaboratively to produce basic scenarios and simulation activities. These were refined by the project officer in consultation with the creators.

Results

Outcomes achieved:

- a clinical simulation template
- 15 simulated learning resources with an inter professional learning focus
- an easily accessible on line environment to hold resources

Additional outcomes:

- Collaboration within the multidisciplinary team and the TasTAFE project officer
- Enhanced understanding by participants of the philosophies of clinical simulation and its implementation within the work environment
- Enablement of staff to identify training needs applicable to clinical simulation

Discussion

The aim of the project is to support increased capacity and quality of clinical training and inter-professional learning. The scenarios are applicable to both AHAs and new graduate AHPs. The templates provide opportunity to develop a portfolio of training scenarios for the allied health workforce. The project highlighted opportunities for simulated learning for AHPs to be provided in the workplace requiring only a small investment of time and resources. Further work is underway to validate the scenarios.