Renewed momentum for clinical supervision training

The WACTN welcomed Martin FitzSimons to the role of Coordinator for the Clinical Supervision Support Program (CSSP) in May. One of his first tasks is to re-establish momentum for the Clinical Supervision Skills Initiative, created by Health Workforce Australia (HWA) to increase capacity and quality in clinical supervision across Western Australia.

A survey to identify local training needs was conducted in late 2013, with processes to provide this training now resumed. In response to HWA requirements, training opportunities will be made available to current and intending clinical supervisors and these will need to be taken up by the end of November this year. The next survey is to be held across the health sector – government, not-for-profit and private providers from a range of settings including health, aged care, disability and mental health.

Details of training opportunities and dates will be released by the CSSP as soon as they are available, most likely in July. All parties interested in accessing training in the second half of 2014 should monitor the WACTN website for details.

The event also incorporated a mini-research symposium of CSSU-funded projects, with presenters each providing a four-minute outline of their current research activities in the clinical simulation space.

A Q&A session, featuring a panel of simulation experts from the University of WA, Fiona Stanley Hospital and Edith Cowan University, provided an opportunity for the audience to pose some interesting and provocative questions.

In conclusion the event, UWA Emeritus Professor Lou Landau suggested options for the progression and optimisation of simulation-based training and education within WA.

According to the CSSU’s Medical Advisor, Richard Riley, the event was a huge success.

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Member Profile: Dr Rosina Vogels

The new WACTN Governance Committee includes a broader representation of health service stakeholders than previously provided by the WACTN Steering Group.

Joining the recently expanded team is Rosina Vogels who, as Residential Aged Care Services Manager for Aged and Community Services Western Australia (ACSWA), brings valuable knowledge of the aged care sector to the table.

A nurse herself by training, Rosina has worked in the aged sector for some 30 years, where she has experience as an educator, researcher and administrator.

In 2006, when working as Director Safety and Quality for the Hall and Prior Aged Care Organisation, she was named as an Adjunct Associate Professor by Curtin University for her contribution to the field of nursing in the area of aged care. This related to research she undertook into the use of technology to treat pressure ulcers.

In her current role with ACSWA, which is the peak body for not-for-profit aged and community care providers in Western Australia – representing a large number of church, charitable and local government organisations – one of her key roles is identifying the sector’s ongoing training needs. She contributes to a number of initiatives aimed at developing a skilled and dedicated workforce in elderly care, and sees the continuous improvement of clinical placements as an important aspect of this.

“In the residential aged care sector, clinical placements are primarily taken up by students studying to become registered nurses and allied health professionals, particularly occupational therapists,” explains Rosina.

“I appreciate that the experience of working with aged care residents – especially those in high-care environments – can be quite confronting, especially for young students. The students I have seen are generally well prepared and very cooperative, but I think it’s sometimes unclear what level of skill they’re meant to be achieving while on placement.

“In my opinion, there needs to be greater communication between university staff and hosting organisations to ensure that the level of mentoring and supervision provided to individual students is sufficient. This aspect is critical to the overall quality of the clinical placement.”

Rosina also believes that the potential for financial reward and career development would offer greater incentive to aged care nurses to take on the clinical supervision role.

“Registered nurses earn less money in aged care facilities than in hospitals, so it’s really a bigger ask of them to take on this role in a busy work environment,” she elaborates.

“Some career pathway incentive and financial recognition would assist greatly in sustaining their commitment to this important task.”

COI Networking Events Popular

The WACTN is hosting a series of free Communities of Interest (CoI) networking events in 2014, open to all stakeholders with an interest in the clinical education and training of health profession students. The first two of these events were held in April and May and received very positive feedback.

The first event focused on the topic of simulated learning environments. Kirsty Freeman (Simulation Education Coordinator, Postgraduate Medical Education Unit, WA Country Health Services) spoke about simulation from a rural and remote perspective, patient-centred simulation, state-based resources and accreditation/certification. Guests also learnt about a variety of simulation innovations happening in Western Australia, including programs from the Challenge Institute of Training, the Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health, Murdoch University, Curtin University, Notre Dame University and Edith Cowan University.

The theme of the second CoI event was interprofessional education (or IPE). During an address by Margo Brewer, the Director of Practice and IPE in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Curtin University, participants broke into small groups to consider how to implement interprofessional education and practice. The presentation from this event has been recorded and produced as a video. If you would like to access the recording, keep an eye on the WACTN website resources page, or contact us at wactn@health.wa.gov.au.

Details of the next event will be released shortly. As the past two events have met capacity, it is recommended that you RSVP early to ensure a place.

Contact us
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Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice

The Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network (GNARTN) was happy to sponsor the Northern Australia Health Roundtable in Darwin in May – the first event of its kind.

Senior health and higher education sector representatives from across Greater Northern Australia (GNA) and the Commonwealth came together to work towards improving health service delivery models and to identify ways to train and develop the kind of health workforce required to meet the need of communities in rural/remote northern Australia.

Work will now begin on a range of projects to address the key challenges and to enhance the existing work being done in each sector.

The GNARTN Council welcomed a number of new Council members at the start of the year, including WACTN Chair Dianne Bianchini. The Council also acknowledges the significant contribution of departing members Catherine Stoddard and Dr Mark Wenitong.

As a follow-up from the GNA University Network hosted by GNARTN in Darwin in March, the network has produced a consensus paper focused on opportunities for strengthening the capacity of the higher education sector to grow the future northern Australia health workforce. GNA Universities reached in-principle agreement at the Darwin meeting to work collectively on a number of key issues that impact on the delivery of clinical placements and training in northern Australia.

GNARTN’s 2014 projects are well underway, with a focus on consolidating the outcomes achieved in 2013, and working with its partners to drive collaboration on a range of initiatives.

The expertise and input provided to GNARTN’s various project steering committees from members of Clinical Training Networks and health agencies across GNA is valued and greatly appreciated.

Project progress details can be found at http://www.gnartn.org.au/our-projects/