The WACTN has been liaising with the Commonwealth Department of Health to clarify opportunities for stakeholders with regards to recent funding announcements. The following information has been provided by the Commonwealth:

The Australian Government’s Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook announced that the Clinical Training Funding program will not continue beyond 2015. The Commonwealth is focusing on supporting the future and current rural and regional health workforce, including:

• developing the rural training pipeline for new medical graduates
• increasing rural, regional and remote clinical training placements
• supporting clinical training placements in private and non-government hospitals and health services.

The Integrated Rural Training Pipeline measure will help address the long-standing disconnect in the rural training system by providing greater opportunities for medical graduates interested in rural careers to maintain connections to rural communities while they complete postgraduate training.

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Funding of $5 million per annum will be provided to establish grants to private healthcare providers to support clinical placement activity for nursing, midwifery and allied health professional entry students. The competitive funding round to support clinical placements in private and non-government health services will be held in 2016, with successful applicants delivering these clinical placements in 2017:

Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network

An amount of $0.5 million per year will be allocated to continue the work of the Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network (GNARTN) to better coordinate the clinical training pipeline across Northern Australia.

Simulated Learning Environments Program

The Department is undertaking a number of Simulated Learning Environments projects to continue to build the evidence and to support health educators and trainers. The WACTN will provide further information as it becomes available.

Simulation resources grant

The Development of Resources grant supports the adoption of simulation learning methods in the health and education sector by increasing the diversity of simulation training resources and scenarios in priority areas. It also improves access to these resources for educators and students across Western Australia. Congratulations to the following organisations that were successful in securing a grant:

• Women and Newborn Health Service – Perninatal Anxiety Screening Scale and Family Domestic Violence Scenarios
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Commonwealth Funding Update

Expansion of the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program

An additional $2.1 million per year will be offered to each university currently supporting multidisciplinary rural training through the University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) program, equating to an increase of $6.5 million for each UDRH over the current RHMT funding period (to 31 December 2016). This additional capacity will be targeted at nursing, midwifery and allied health students.

Three new UDRH sites will be established, most likely in the Broome and Kimberley region of Western Australia, southern and central New South Wales, and south east Queensland. The new UDRHs will each be eligible for funding of $4.2 million per year, in line with the expanded funding now available to existing UDRHs.

The Department will run a competitive process in 2016 to determine the university fund holders for these new sites which will commence at the start of the 2017 academic year.

Private/NGO Round

Funding of $5 million per annum will be provided to establish grants to private healthcare providers to support clinical placement activity for nursing, midwifery and allied health professional entry students. The competitive funding round to support clinical placements in private and non-government health services will be held in 2016, with successful applicants delivering these clinical placements in 2017:

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Member profile: Judith Peters

According to governance committee member Judy Peters, the WACTN has played an important role in bringing education and training providers together with service delivery areas to increase understanding of each other’s challenges.

A Registered Nurse with 32 years’ experience working in a range of health settings and locations, Judy is currently Director of the Academy of Health Sciences at the West Coast Institute where she has oversight of a number of qualifications related to health and wellness and responsibility for managing around 1,200 clinical placements for students each year.

The West Coast Institute invested in a clinical placement management system some six years ago to better manage placements and has developed the system to accommodate the needs of registered training organisations.

Judy, who has postgraduate qualifications in health services management, has seen training issues from both sides and champions the importance of providing placements to students that actively consolidate their classroom learning.

“Meaningful placements enable students to convert their recently learnt knowledge and skills to practice within the workplace, with clinical facilitators seeking out opportunities for exposure to procedures and activity that will enhance this learning,” she explained.

“For example, a student preparing a patient for a surgical procedure and recovering them on return to the ward would have their learning enhanced if they were able to observe a relevant procedure, whether that was a hip replacement or a liver biopsy. This couldn’t happen for every student but it could be achieved for many.

“Being able to practise skills under constructive supervision is essential; students need to be placed where they will get this kind of supervised experience.”

Judy also believes that clinical simulation has a role to play in developing a range of important professional attributes including decision-making skills, teamwork, time management skills, reflective practice and communication skills.

“Simulated shifts with multidisciplinary teams can help to de-escalate the fear factor and increase the learning and collaboration required for holistic patient care, building confidence in students prior to industry exposure.”

“Another significant achievement of the WACTN is the role it has played in increasing access to simulation training opportunities.”

Third phase of supervision skills program underway

In 2014 and 2015, the Clinical Supervision Skills Program (CSSP) was delivered at two levels – Foundational (Phase 1) and Intermediate (Phase 2) – via face-to-face events across regional and metropolitan sites. This training, and previous consultations with WACTN Community of Interest groups, generated strong interest in continuing with clinical supervision training at a Master Class/Advanced level. Consequently, CSSP Phase 3 has now commenced, with funding being provided to three West Australian universities to deliver the training.

At the beginning of March the first workshop, Transforming Clinical Training and Supervision, was delivered by the University of Western Australia. The advanced level program saw a multidisciplinary mix of leading clinical educators from across the state come together to develop advanced clinical supervision competencies under the tutelage of experienced clinical and academic facilitators from diverse health and education backgrounds. Topics covered during the three day short course were aimed at developing participants’ knowledge and skills in: clinical supervision, support and mentorship practices; planning and development strategies for leading change in clinical education within individual, service and organisational level settings; and leadership of interprofessional collaboration.

Opportunities for further learning and support are being offered to participants through articulation into a postgraduate course in health professions education at the University of Western Australia and through individual and group sessions with course facilitators available until the end of June 2016. This extended support aims to create a community of knowledgeable educators who have the capacity to lead educational improvement within and across national and international health care and tertiary institutions.

The following courses are scheduled to run in the first half of 2016. Places are limited, so please visit our website for registration details.

Contact us

WA Clinical Training Network
Level 1, B Block, 189 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Web: www.health.wa.gov.au/wactn
Email: wactn@health.wa.gov.au
Tel: (08) 9222 2166 or (08) 9222 2278

Leading and Influencing in Clinical Supervision Workshop

This one-day workshop will be facilitated by Dr Margaret Potter, an engaging and humorous speaker who works at the Centre on the development and delivery of workshops locally, nationally and internationally. The course will be running on the following dates:

- Metro: 5 April, 29 April, 10 May (G24 Seminar Room, Harry Perkins Institute [North] QEIII Campus, Nedlands)
- Rural: 12 May (Rural Clinical School, UWA, Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital) and 16 May (Western Australian Centre for Rural Health, Geraldton).

To express your interest or to obtain further information please contact Angela.Lindley@uwa.edu.au.

The Advanced/Master Class Interprofessional Clinical Supervision Workshops

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Partnerships), incorporating the Edith Cowan University Health Simulation Centre, is offering two all-day clinical supervision Master Classes. These welcome experienced clinical supervisors seeking advanced training that will extend and improve their leadership skills. There will be a focus on clinical supervision in interprofessional learning/practice environments and simulation learning techniques will be used.

The course is scheduled to run on 12 April at ECU Joondalup Campus (Building 21, Room 246). To express your interest or to obtain further information please contact Jessica Clowes on (08) 6304 3410 or email j.clowes@ecu.edu.au.

Best Practice in Clinical Supervision

This unit is one of four offered at graduate diploma level. It comprises four discrete modules, each of which is aligned to one or more learning objectives and includes at least one assessment activity:

- Principles and models of clinical supervision
- Planning learning
- Learning and teaching in a clinical setting
- The complexities of clinical supervision.

The unit will be delivered in a blended learning format that includes face-to-face workshops coupled with online activities and synchronous/asynchronous online communication through the Learning Management System, Blackboard. To enrol or to obtain further information please contact shirley.bowen@nd.edu.au.

Advanced Clinical Educator/Supervisor Workshops

These workshops will build on educational strategies in the Foundational and Intermediate workshops and will extend participants so that they can lead and influence clinical supervision within their own contexts. The four focus areas that will be covered in the workshops are:

- Supporting staff through best practice in clinical supervision
- Workplace culture and communication
- Ensuring quality in clinical supervision practices
- Promoting best practice outcomes in clinical supervision.

The workshops will be running on the following dates:

- Metro: 8 April or 24 June 2016
- Regional: 13 May 2016

To register please contact alvessa.moie@nd.edu.au

Enquiries to susan.edgar@nd.edu.au or 9433 0115

RURAL TRAVEL SCHEME

The WACTN has allocated funding to continue the popular Country Allied Health Student Travel Grants program until 30 June 2016. Administered by Rural Health West, the program assists allied health students with travel costs to undertake rural clinical placements in Western Australia.

Ultimately, it aims to address the ongoing shortage of health professionals in community areas by increasing the likelihood a student will return to a rural area for professional practice.

For more information or to apply visit http://www.health.wa.gov.au/wactn/home/resources.ctn

Rural Health West