Development of the Queensland Health Wide Bay Health Service District interprofessional clinical education and training

This project was funded by the ClinEdQ Research and Publication Initiative to develop a set of interprofessional competencies, which will form one aspect of the District’s plans to move towards a culture of interprofessional learning and interprofessional practice. The summary below outlines the key outcomes of the project.

Summary

This report was produced by the researchers at the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) on Wide Bay Health Service District Interprofessional education and training developments. Core to the project is the development of a set of interprofessional competencies, which will form one aspect of the District’s plans to move towards a culture of interprofessional learning and interprofessional practice. This paper synthesises findings from a wide ranging and rigorous process of consultation and enquiry in order to comprehensively report on the research and to lay the groundwork for implementation of an interprofessional care project in Wide Bay Health Services District (HSD). The report describes the contexts and aims, methods utilised and findings from the research process. Substantive deliverables are attached to the report as annexes. The recommendations provide Wide Bay HSD with a guide to implementing an interprofessional care project, and are formulated on the basis of the process of enquiry and consultation as a whole.

The project began with an initial scoping and design phase, seeking to understand the precise uses to which interprofessional competencies might be put in the Wide Bay HSD context. The end users of the competencies, the Wide Bay HSD clinical educators, were consulted through two surveys, distributed both by email and in person at a workshop in Hervey Bay.

The consensus finding from consultations is that the competencies are best suited to adaptation to diverse and discrete contexts of practice and clinical and organisational processes. The strongest theme emerging is that if they are just regarded as generic statements of principle, they will not lead to meaningful change, nor garner the enthusiasm required to engage in the process. Implementation has to be aligned to existing contexts so as to instantiate a vision of transformative patient centred care achieved through interprofessional practice. The competencies are sufficiently adaptable across the full range of contexts of care within the Wide Bay HSD and they will provide the basis for a valuable resource as the District moves forward with its plans. However, they need to be viewed not as an end in themselves but as a tool forming part of a broader agenda of culture change. Through both written and verbal feedback, Wide Bay HSD staff emphasised that the competencies needed to be translatable to concrete contexts, both in adapting and deepening...
existing education and training modules and in stimulating discussion and action around the improvement of processes and models of care.

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