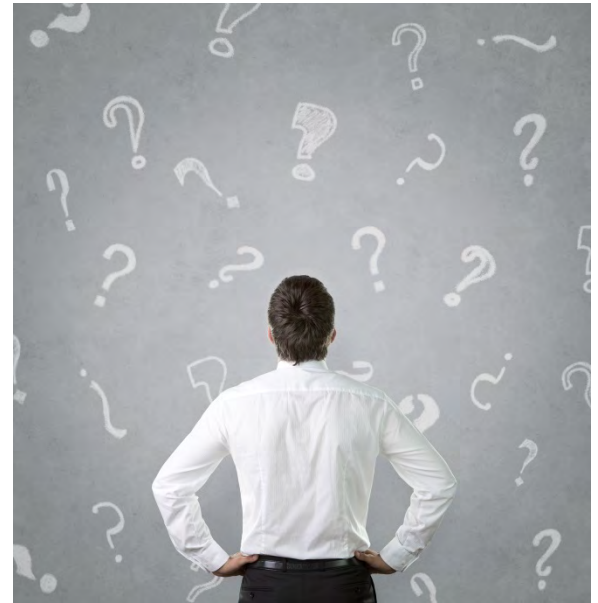


Stepping stones to success – development of an education program to support ‘rural generalist’ allied health professionals

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Definitions

- Allied health rural generalist services:
 - Meet the health needs of the local rural/remote community
 - Provide services across the lifespan & continuum of care
 - Provide services across a range of clinical areas
- Allied health rural generalists:
 - Delivers rural generalist services as above
 - Provides a range of clinical and non-clinical functions to meet local health needs
- Generic (allied) health worker



A rural generalist 'pathway'



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AH rural generalist pathway

- Two primary aims:
 - To support rural generalist service development
 - To support development of allied health rural generalists
- Two primary components:
 - Workforce structures/opportunities to experience rural and remote practice
 - Structured education program

What is required?



Education framework

Service delivery

- Service development & planning
- Quality improvement
- Project and change management
- Evidence-based decision making
- Management skills
- Education and supervision

Rural & remote practice

- Health care systems
- Cultural competence
- Primary health care
- Rural generalist service models, including telehealth, delegation and skill-sharing

Generalist clinical skills

- Broad clinical capabilities in own profession – full scope generalist
- Aligned to service needs
- Core clinical practice and clinical focus areas

Service specific clinical skills

- Includes extended scope and skills sharing
- Dependent on local community health and service needs

Framework development

- Two levels specified
 - Level 1 – full scope of practice
 - Level 2 – higher level skills, including extended scope, leadership of services
- For each topic area:
 - Service outcomes
 - Development objectives
 - Sample activities/outputs were identified

Review and revision

- Iterative process of review and revision of drafts
- Stakeholders included:
 - Allied health & profession leaders
 - Clinicians, educators
 - Rural allied health professionals
- Final drafts completed



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What next?

- Expert review of frameworks
- Education program development
- Engagement of education providers
- Trial of 'Modified Level 1' program in 2016
- Full Level 1 program from 2017
- Full Level 2 program from ? 2019

A close-up photograph of a field of golden wheat stalks. The stalks are in various stages of ripeness, with some showing long, thin awns. The background is a clear, vibrant blue sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

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