

Moira Health IT student support program

Date completed: 30 November 2012

Background and context

Moira Health Services increased clinical placement opportunities for nursing and allied health undergraduates by 65%. The increase of potential student placement places pressures on already limited or non-existent IT resources or student learning areas. In order to support student placements as required by Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment (BPCLE), Principles Elements 1, 2, 3 and 6 Small Capital and Equipment funding would be implemented in each health service to address these issues and improve access to IT equipment and student learning areas.

Project objectives and expected impacts

Project objectives

- Clinical placement will be supported by access to IT equipment and resources,
- Opportunity for students to have their own academic area will be promoted,
- Less disruption to clinical placement,
- Online programs to be made available,
- Improved communication for the student and supervisor with education provider partners.

Expected impacts

- Clinical placement identified by student IT and resources,
- Students to become part of the team and have some ownership of their study area,
- Students able to remain accessing their IT without impinging on clinical staff access,
- Students can access online communication with their education providers and complete assessment,
- Students and supervisors have reliable and consistent access to IT as a communication with education provider partners during placements.

Project activities

Project activities	Project deliverables	Due date
Cobram District Health: Refurbish student study rooms in the student accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student study/resource area renovated • WIFI provided 	1 May 2012
Cobram District Health: Purchase equipment	Equipment purchased through nominated suppliers	1 May 2012
Cobram District Health: Install student study rooms with equipment/resources	Completion of project with installation and education re-use	1 July 2012
Nathalia District Hospital: Nominate area for student desk placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student study/resource area identified • Review of placement objectives for improved student learning environment. 	1 May 2012
Nathalia District Hospital: Purchase equipment	Equipment purchased through nominated suppliers	1 May 2012
Nathalia District Hospital: Install equipment/resources	Completion of project with installation and education re-use	1 July 2012
Yarrowonga Health: Nominate area for student IT resources	Student study/resource area identified	1 May 2012
Yarrowonga Health: Purchase equipment	Equipment purchased through nominated suppliers	1 May 2012
Yarrowonga Health: Install resources and equipment	Completion of project with installation and education re web camera and videoconferencing equipment	1 July 2012
Numurkah District Health: Identify alternate student study areas	Student study/resource area purchased and furnished	20 December 2012
Numurkah District Health: Purchase equipment	Equipment purchased through nominated suppliers	20 December 2012
Numurkah District Health: Install student study room with equipment/resources	Completion of project with installation and education re-use	20 December 2012

Project management

Governance

- Yarrowonga Health – lead agency
- Elaine Mallows – Director of Clinical Services, Yarrowonga Health Project Supervisor
- Janine Smith – Project Officer, Moira Health Service, Interprofessional Clinical Placement Project

Steering Committee comprised of:

- Christine Symmons – DON, Cobram District Health
- Leigh Giffard – DON, Nathalia District Hospital
- Elaine Mallows – DOCS, Yarrowonga Health
- Robyn Broms – DON, Numurkah District Health
- Fiona Lukes – HR, Cobram District Health

Reporting of implementation of funding reported to Steering Committee monthly and at completion of project.

Note: Christine Symmons and Robyn Broms both resigned before completion of project.

Margaret McKenzie DON Cobram District Health and Jacquie Phillips CEO/Acting DON Numurkah District Health both kept informed of project status, timelines and budget.

Project performance against stated deliverables

Project activity	Project deliverable/target	Due date	Status
Yarrawonga Health	Purchase equipment	1 May	Complete
Numurkah District Health	Purchase equipment	30 December	Complete
Cobram District Health	Purchase equipment	1 May	Complete
Nathalia District Health	Purchase equipment	1 May	Complete
Yarrawonga Health	Renovate area identified	1 July	Complete
Numurkah District Health	Renovate area identified	30 December	Complete
Cobram District Health	Renovate area identified	1 July	Complete
Nathalia District Health	Renovate area identified	1 July	Complete

Project achieved its objectives of providing IT equipment and resources for student learning areas as per asset register.

Project outcomes

Members in all Moira Health Services are able to implement some of the major components of the BPCLE Principles when supervising students allowing flexibility into the placement with the following:

- Access to areas where simulated learning can be implemented in a conducive learning environment,
- Culture of learning being implemented into each health service,
- Supports students with geographically challenged placements to be able to Skype or videoconference using webcam with their educator provider,
- Education for staff implemented in order to support student supervision,
- Affords student IT access in areas of placement never before utilised.

Evaluation

Implementation IT resources and flexible thinking allowed accessibility for students and clinical educators to realise learning areas to suit each Moira Health Service. The project ran to budget, however no costing had been placed against the Project Officer's time when organising and following up on this project. The Project Officer completed this project whilst working on the Moira Project and the Clinical Supervision Support Program (CSSP).

Conclusion

This project was being implemented simultaneously with two other projects in the Hume CPN that directly impacted staff on how important resources are for student learning. The Moira project increased clinical placement by 65% and these potential students for 2012 and onwards now have in place study areas and resources they have direct access to in order to support their learning to enhance the quality of their placement in a small rural health service (SRHS). The CSSP is currently being implemented in the Hume Region for the SRHS and BPCLE Principles are highlighted when education is delivered to all clinical staff. This is a positive outcome when Moira Health Service staff are able to factor into their delivery of quality supervision the use of IT for students and their improved learning environments.