

Small Capital and Equipment Program

Final report

Student amenities

Background and context

Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) has a combined population of approximately 87 500 people making it a significant regional centre. AWH is an important provider of clinical placements with established relationships with local education providers. Currently there are 1288 clinical staff employed at AWH with most of those participating in teaching and facilitating the clinical learning of students. Recent data released by Price Waterhouse Coopers mapping clinical placements demonstrates that Albury and Wodonga are both in the top 100 providers in Australia of clinical placements per capita by local government area. In the recent round of multi-lateral negotiations, AWH increased its capacity for clinical training in nursing by 465 days and has further scope to increase capacity, particularly in the training of allied health students.

The potential for further increases in the capacity to provide clinical training will be realised as the organisation continues to explore the synergies that exist as an outcome of a larger and more organised workforce and led to further embracing of a learning culture. The organisation is now very well-placed to develop itself as a leader in education. As a key provider of health services in the region, the development of AWH as an exemplar of clinical training has the potential to positively impact on the capacity and quality of training through staff who provide outreach services to the wider community.

Whilst the clinical training from an educational point of view is 'best practice', this is not reflected in the lack of for students. As indicated in the Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment (BPCLE) Framework (Element 3), a positive learning environment is underpinned by making the student feel welcome and supported whilst on placement. A dedicated area where students can debrief, interact with students from other disciplines and support their clinical training experience, with access to resources such as computers, is a major step towards achieving this for AWH.

AWH has a collaborative alliance in education with Charles Sturt University, University of New South Wales, La Trobe University and Wodonga TAFE. These local education providers are educating students in medicine, nursing, enrolled nurses, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, speech pathology, pharmacy, dietetics, medical imaging, oral health and dentistry. The collaborative alliance is a partnership that is positively impacting on the rural and regional workforce.

Project objectives and expected impacts

To provide a physical space for students on clinical placement to study in and to retreat This will provide an area away from the workspace for reflection, debriefing, timeout and when able, study and research. This project will directly help to address the challenges ahead by developing a presence and raising the profile of the clinical placement program.

Project activities

- Created floor plan room layout;
- Undertake minor modifications: painting, floor coverings;
- Ordered and installed equipment/computers and furniture.

Project management

Governance

- The governance of this project will be managed by AWH. The funds will be held and managed by AWH.
- The plan will be signed off by Executive Director of Clinical Operations and Director of Nursing, Wodonga.
- Minor modifications and purchases coordinated by Nursing Education Officer and undertaken by Engineering and Logistics Departments respectively.

The ongoing sustainability and evaluation of the student amenity area will be coordinated by the AWH Student Placement Subcommittee, which reports directly to the AWH Education Committee.

- Stakeholder engagement and consultations occurred however a change in staff and the ongoing integration of Albury and Wodonga Hospital created some coordination issue. In addition, the introduction of the simulated learning centre created additional cost and impacts on the original area designated for this project.
- Budget – some costs have been absorbed by AWH and these ongoing changes created pressures.
- Timelines were extended due to various impacts

Project performance against stated deliverables

Project activity	Project deliverable/target	Due date	Status
Create floor plan room layout	Plan completed	March 2012	Complete
Undertake minor modifications	Works completed	April 2012	Complete
Order equipment/computers	Orders placed and equipment received	May 2012	Complete
Order furniture	Orders placed and furniture received	May 2012	Complete
Install computers and equipment	Room completed	June 2012	Complete
Creation of study/meeting place for students/mentors	Room available		Complete

- Objective achieved in that there are nine study places created with videoconferencing and training facilities available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week for students/staff to use in a mentoring, training or self-directed activities;
- Additional debrief meeting area created;
- Link with SIM project enhanced.

Project outcomes

- Greater access to online learning, study space and location for mentoring and debriefing.

Evaluation

- Positive aspects being – created recognition of the need to support new graduates and a positive approach to learning;
- In addition, supporting mentors with support facilities in recognition of the work they undertake;
- Most difficult aspects being – the reporting requirements for small amount of money;
- Additional funds from the organisation required to address unforeseen issues not documented in original application;
- Key learning: Where possible, one-point of contact from the Department of Health and one from the organisation.