

Teaching and learning resource development at Heathcote Health

Date completed: 30 June 2012

Background and context

Heathcote Health (HH) is a small rural health service with ten public acute care beds, twelve high aged care beds and 30 low-care residential aged beds. HH also provides community health services such as HACC services (general home care, personal care, respite care, property maintenance, planned activity group, meals on wheels and district nursing), physiotherapy, maternal and child health Nurse. HH is accredited under the Australian Council Healthcare Standards (ACHS) and the Aged Care Accreditation Standards Agency (ACSAA). The GP Primary Care practice is accredited under the AGPAL Medical Clinic Accreditation program.

HH works closely with the universities and other training providers to provide training opportunities to medical, nursing and allied health students. HH has invested in increasing the quality of student placements at HH and would like to expand to additional placements of allied health professionals.

HH has recently been successful in securing infrastructure funds. This money will be spent on:

- A large and purpose-built training space (26m² with option to expand to 46m²), which will enable group training for existing clinicians as well as students, the best use of our training and communication equipment; visiting specialists and educators to come and train groups as well as provide community education activities.
- Smaller spaces that can be used for 1:1 training and for students to sit down and access one computer.
- Additional, larger consulting rooms that provide more space for students and existing clinicians to observe and learn.

This small capital and equipment program has enabled HH to fit-out the room with appropriate training equipment that will enhance the student's learning experience at HH.

Project objectives and expected impacts

- Provide appropriate and up-to-date equipment and IT support to students to enhance clinical experience and learning at HH
- Improve the quality education sessions provided at HH
- Increase the number of teaching and learning opportunities available to students at HH
- Enhance the quality of the learning experience available at HH
- Increase the amount of interdisciplinary education delivered at HH

Project activities

- Identification of appropriate equipment and the purchase and installation of equipment
- Subsequent of evaluation of the value of this equipment
- This equipment included: two data projectors, two pull-down screens, two note book computers, two interactive whiteboards as well as audio equipment

Project management

Governance

Project lead, Director of Nursing and Chief Executive Officer, Di Kenyon, has assumed total lead responsibility as CEO resigned during this process and Di assumed the Acting CEO role. The Finance Department has managed the income and expenditure associated with this project as part of the organisations financial processes.

Stakeholder engagement and consultations

Staff consulted and trained throughout project.

Budget

Part of HH's financial accountability processes.

Timelines

Delayed due to building works not completed.

Project performance against stated deliverables

Project activity	Project deliverable/target	Due date	Status
Purchase of equipment	Note books projectors, screens whiteboards and audio equipment all purchased.	30 June 2012	Completed
Installation of equipment	Note books projectors, screens whiteboards and audio equipment all installed.	30 June 2012	Partially completed: one set has been completely installed. The other is still not installed as HH has not been able to gain access to the building due to building works being delayed.
Evaluation tool developed	Evaluation completed with all staff that have utilised equipment.	30 June 2012	Completed

This project has substantially met its objectives:

- All equipment has been purchased and 50% has been installed
- Staff have been trained in the use of and are utilising the equipment that has been installed
- Evaluations have been conducted of staff utilising equipment installed and is attached

Project outcomes

With this new equipment HH is now able to provide a much improved training environment. Interactive sessions utilising audio as well as visual educational mediums are now fully utilised.

Evaluation

Positive aspects include:

- New equipment that is easy to use and provides enhanced learning opportunities
- Capacity building within the organisation; staff have been trained in the use of IT to facilitate the use of this new equipment

Challenging parts of the project have been:

- The installation of the equipment into a new building where access has not been gained to date due to the delayed building works. HH has had no control over the development of this new site and has had no influence in being able to move the second part of the installation forward.

Key learnings:

- Not to underestimate the value of training to ensure use of the equipment is maximised
- Appoint a project champion who will oversee the training and the evaluation of a project

Conclusion

This project has given HH the opportunity to install new equipment that can enhance the learning process both of trainers and students. To be able to utilise audio and visual equipment to reinforce key learning points will improve outcomes for this organisation for staff and clients alike.

HH also has increased capacity to increase the amount and variety of training within the organisation with equipment that can now accommodate students' different learning needs. There is now increased capacity for visual and audio options for training. For example, the recent HACC training included the use of video clips through the laptop with enhanced sound, combined with a PowerPoint slideshow.