

Better Skills, Best Care

Role: Allied Health Assistant – Long-term Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Pilot setting

Melbourne Health – Gardenvue House Residential Care

Role description

The new role required allied health assistants with a range of skills across disciplines to focus on the long term Slow to Recover client rather than on a particular discipline, allowing greater flexibility to meet client needs. The role included a greater emphasis on communication with staff and residents, appropriate initiative and clinical reasoning skills, greater knowledge of the pathology of ABI and its impact on the individual, and a greater understanding of patient goals and the impact of therapy.

Tasks

- Perform a range of therapy skills historically undertaken by a variety of disciplines
- Communicate with resident and family regarding therapy goals and specific therapy activity as required
- Communicate with resident and family regarding impact of therapy
- Communicate status and progress of resident with unit staff
- Act as link between staff and between staff and resident/family

Education and training

HLT42507 Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance is the appropriate qualification for this role. See www.ntis.gov.au for full course details.

As part of the qualification recommended, the following units of competency should be considered as electives:

- Communicate effectively with clients (HLTCOM404B)
- Provide care and support (CHCDIS10B)
- Work effectively with culturally diverse clients and co-workers (HLTHIR403B)
- Work effectively with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (HLTHIR404BA)
- Orientation to disability work (CHCDIS1C)
- Assess and deliver services to clients with complex needs (CHCCS6B)
- Utilise specialist communication skills to build strong relationships(CHCCOM3C)
- Provide advanced behaviour support (CHCDIS16A)
- Facilitate cooperative behaviour (CHCCS401A)
- Conduct a recreation program for people with a disability (SRCCRO010A)

In addition, a short course in Acquired Brain Injury would be relevant.

Providers

Delivery of qualifications and units of competency from the new Health Training Package HLT07 requires TAFE institutes and private Registered Training Organisations to formally apply to the Office of Training and Tertiary Education for Registration to deliver training. It is anticipated delivery could commence by Semester 1, 2008.

Information about VET providers can be accessed on www.ntis.gov.au

Organisations in Victoria which provide short courses in understanding and managing ABI include Headway Victoria, Brain Foundation, ARBIAS.

Costs associated with undertaking training

Until nominal hours for delivery of units in the Health Training Package are established, costs of delivery cannot be stated.

Training gaps and delivery options

Some skills may be developed through in-house training, where site-specific requirements can be addressed. Courses could include:

- Tracheostomy care
- Management of people with ABI
- Sensory focused management

This qualification is suited to Australian Apprenticeship pathways.

Contact details for piloted role

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