

Clinical Placement Challenges from a Health Service Perspective

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Commitment

- Aim to provide a supported learning environment that will enable students to meet their clinical objectives, apply theory to practice in a supervised context and meet regulatory requirements for registration
- Viewed as an essential element in all practice based disciplines
- Should be a positive experience as part of the preparation for graduates who need to function as competent beginning level practitioners

Numbers Game

- 32 clinical areas across acute, subacute, residential and community
- 9 Allied Health disciplines, Div 1 & 2, PCAs, Re-entry Div 1 & 2 and Mid, Medical students
- 50 weeks a year
- Average 76 students a week - peak times this can be as many as 200

Planning

- Administration nightmare
- Takes anywhere up to 3 months to finalise
- Not yet joined between craft groups
- Balance shifts – 24/7
- Learning needs within types of areas
- Requests for same time in the year
- Matching students – travel and accommodation

Rural Placements

- Distance to travel
- Lack of short term accommodation
- Cost of living away from home
- Part time employments lost
- Family commitments of students

Curriculum match

- Diversity between and within health curriculum
- Some rotations are too short to establish team work, social orientation to the “real world” and build collegiality, difficult for students to appreciate the unpredictable and dynamic nature of the clinical setting
- Placements need to have a clearly defined purpose and expectation of the participant

Service models to meet community expectations

- Population demographics
- Burdens of disease
- Economic rationalisation
- Technology
- Patient/Client expectations
- Shorter stay, same day procedures

Workforce issues

- Ageing workforce
- Casualisation = lack of continuity
- Skill mix
- Divided responsibilities b/w patient care, graduates, new staff, casual staff, re-entry participants and students

Environment

- Space
- Physical infrastructure
- Ward size – all in together
- Clinical Equipment
- Car parking

Changes to Requests

- Over request = Cancellations
- Need to be timely
- Effects rosters and allocations

Positive Context

- Transparency
- Acknowledgement of Health Service staff
- Students contribution
- Challenge thinking
- Add freshness
- Partnership
- Balance