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Shaping Future Practice: Developing an Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Program

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Background

The Allied Health and Oral Health Clinical Education and Training Unit was established in Queensland in response to recommendations from the Ministerial Taskforce on Clinical Education and Training (2007) to provide state-wide co-ordination of clinical education and training for all allied health disciplines as well as Oral Health. In addition, the Health Practitioners (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement 2007 provided funding for Clinical Education Workload Management Initiatives to support Allied Health professionals in the clinical education of students and new graduates. For Occupational Therapy this funding equated to over \$1.6 million.

These two important initiatives inspired the development of the Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Program (OTCEP).

Aim/Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the development of the OTCEP, a state-wide initiative with the following aims:

1. To develop an integrated and co-ordinated framework for the delivery of clinical education for pre-entry occupational therapy students and new graduates in Queensland Health
2. To improve access to and quality of student and new graduate clinical education across Queensland Health
3. To provide workload management strategies to assist and support supervisors
4. To develop key learning tools and resources to be integrated within the overall state-wide framework

Method:

The paper will explore the development of the OTCEP, its current structure including overall governance of the program, and achievements of the program to date.

Findings / Results / Discussion:

One particular achievement, the development of a Clinical Capability Framework for Occupational Therapy will be highlighted, and the implications of this framework for future practice will be discussed.

Learning Outcomes:

Participants will gain an understanding of the development, structure and initial achievements of the Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Program.