

Keynote Speakers

Keynote Presenter 3: Dr Suzanne Kuys Australian Catholic University



ABSTRACT

Title: A student led interdisciplinary chronic disease service

The traditional model of allied health student clinical education is predominated by single discipline training. With expanding allied health roles and blurring of some of the professional boundaries the need for collaborative interprofessional education has never been greater. Student-led clinics are one such strategy. One innovative example is the Capricornia Allied Health Partnership (CAHP) clinic; a collaborative partnership between a Health Service, General Practitioners and a University. The CAHP clinic provides a service predominantly to adults with multiple morbidity (two or more chronic diseases); a previously unmet need in this region. Students from multiple disciplines including dietetics, exercise physiology, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and social work from universities throughout Australia participate in this clinic. Students working with an interdisciplinary profession student partner conduct initial intake screening, perform individual consultations or profession specific group work, participate in case conferences and complete professional communication responsibilities.

The CAHP clinic has successfully implemented an innovative model of health service delivery to meet a specific regional need. Such innovation is essential if we are to 'face the future' in terms of the growing incidence and severity of chronic disease impacting Australians, increasing numbers of health care students requiring relevant real-world professional practice experiences, and health workforce shortages and challenges. The processes, evaluations and lessons learnt from the establishment of the CAHP clinic may offer some insights as we face the future of health care education and delivery.

BIOGRAPHY

Suzanne is the National Head, School of Physiotherapy at Australian Catholic University, a position she has held for a little over 12 months. Suzanne is a physiotherapist and worked at Princess Alexander Hospital in Brisbane for the majority of her clinical career, commencing as a new graduate, becoming a senior physiotherapist in 1998. Suzanne commenced in an academic role at Griffith University in 2004, coordinating the Neurology and Gerontology Physiotherapy program. She completed her PhD in 2009 and then worked in conjoint research positions between Queensland Health and Griffith University. Her research interests are stroke, promoting physical activity and function and ageing rehabilitation.