

Presentation Abstracts

Theme 1: Innovation in models of care

Ms Renee Clapham, South West Healthcare rclapham@swh.net.au
Ms Haylee Barker, South West Healthcare

Abstract title: *The multidisciplinary Allied Health Assistant*

Introduction: The majority of Allied Health Assistants (AHAs) work within a single discipline. In 2014, South West Healthcare developed two AHA positions within the Rehabilitation/GEM inpatient unit. These positions are unique as the AHA works across disciplines and the positions are rotational.

Objectives:

- To demonstrate the advantage of multidisciplinary AHAs in the Rehabilitation/GEM inpatient unit.
- To outline the scope of practice and competencies within each role.

Approach AHAs annually rotate between the domains (1) Mobility and Self Care and (2) Communication, Cognition and Nutrition. To facilitate this, a competency framework with input from relevant allied health stakeholders was developed.

Practical implications: Multidisciplinary AHAs are active members within a multidisciplinary inpatient setting and assist with client care and identifying client needs. Within a single client contact, AHAs are able to incorporate therapy goals from multiple disciplines.

Conclusion: Working within a domain rather than discipline has a positive outcome on client care and the rotational position allows the continued development of the AHA's skill set. Through the development and refinement of the competency framework, a sustainable future for the role has been established.

Biography

Renee currently works at South West Healthcare as an Allied Health Assistant in the Rehabilitation / GEM inpatient unit. She has a background in speech pathology and speech technology / research.