

Presentation Abstracts

Theme 3: Collaboration in Allied Health

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Abstract title: *A model for peer reflective practice with occupational therapy students*

Background: Traditionally, undergraduate OT students have participated in regular 1:1 supervision with their supervisors and accepted feedback on their emerging clinical skills. Whilst beneficial, it's widely recognised that students and clinicians learn best when required to actively reflect on their own performance. Provision of regular 1:1 supervision is time consuming and does not always challenge students to critically appraise how their values, beliefs, assumptions and past experiences impact on their clinical work. Further, it does not provide opportunity for valuable common learnings to be explored and shared amongst undergraduate and experienced therapists to promote ongoing education. In response, a model for group facilitated peer reflection was explored and trialled as an adjunct to 1:1 supervision.

Methods: A review of literature, benchmarking and utilisation of an experienced facilitator to guide program development was completed prior to a trial of student peer reflective practice. The new model was assessed via a targeted questionnaire.

Results: Thirty two students and six clinicians participated. Thematic analysis was completed from the surveys. Students and clinicians reported increased opportunity for valuable common learnings to be shared and explored. At times this resulted in transformative learnings for both students and clinicians. The experience has positively impacted on supervision. The overwhelming response from participating students was positive.

Discussion: The program is now embedded in third and fourth year block placements. We continue to use a recognised format for the facilitation of peer reflective practice. Formal research is ongoing.

Biography

Nikki has been an occupational therapist for a number of years. She has worked in a number of clinical areas both in Australia and abroad. Her recent experience has involved working in the tertiary education sector and as an OT Student Coordinator with a large regional health network.