Curriculum renewal for public health nutrition - a national case study, Australia

Heather Yeatman  
*University of Wollongong, hyeatman@uow.edu.au*

Andrea Begley  
*Curtin University*

Roger Hughes  
*Griffith University, r.hughes@griffith.edu.au*

Lisa Schubert  
*University of Queensland*

Lauren Williams  
*University of Canberra*

*See next page for additional authors*

Publication Details

Curriculum renewal for public health nutrition - a national case study, Australia

Abstract
Effective workforce preparation and continuing professional development in public health nutrition are essential to address the immense challenges facing nutrition in the world today. A national Curriculum Renewal in Public Health Nutrition project in Australia (2011/12) built on previous international work on PHN competencies and facilitated scholarly dialogue on innovative teaching and learning and curriculum mapping strategies.

Keywords
renewal, public, study, health, curriculum, nutrition, national, case, australia

Disciplines
Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Publication Details

Authors
Heather Yeatman, Andrea Begley, Roger Hughes, Lisa Schubert, Lauren Williams, and Claire Palermo

This conference paper is available at Research Online: http://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers/390
CURRICULUM RENEWAL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION – A NATIONAL CASE STUDY, AUSTRALIA

Authors:
Yeatman, H - Heather Yeatman - University of Wollongong
Begley, A - Andrea Begley - Curtin University
Hughes, R - Roger Hughes - Griffith University
Schubert, L - Lisa Schubert - University of Queensland
Williams, L - Lauren Williams - University of Canberra
Palermo, C - Claire Palermo - Monash University

Kind of submission: Research reports

Theme: 6. Nature of and strengthening of PHN
Subtheme: 6.3-Capacity building of public health nutrition professionals

Introduction
Effective workforce preparation and continuing professional development in public health nutrition are essential to address the immense challenges facing nutrition in the world today. A national Curriculum Renewal in Public Health Nutrition project in Australia (2011/12) built on previous international work on PHN competencies and facilitated scholarly dialogue on innovative teaching and learning and curriculum mapping strategies.

Objectives
This study aimed to stimulate curriculum renewal in public health nutrition across Australian universities.

Methods
A 2 day national Teaching and Learning Forum involved Australian universities offering PHN programs and PHN leaders in scholarly dialogue on innovative teaching, learning and curriculum mapping strategies to build Public Health Nutrition capabilities.

Results
An initial Delphi process identified ~120 competency elements as essential for the future public health nutrition workforce, categorised into 14 competency areas. The National Forum involved N = 26 universities and PHN leaders. All participants were involved in reflecting on their own learning and teaching strategies and the alignment of their curriculum to achieve the agreed PHN competencies. The framework of ‘Employability’ was applied to reflect on the preparation of graduates with the necessary generic and discipline specific capabilities to apply innovative problem solving for the complex challenges of PHN practice. Forum outcomes included a broad portfolio of teaching and learning strategies related to specific competency outcomes used by Australian academics and the identification of long term plans and barriers to curriculum renewal for individual universities.

Conclusion
Achieving improved public health nutrition outcomes requires scholarly dialogue targeted at curriculum renewal and alignment of learning and teaching strategies with development of professional competencies. PHN academics can benefit from scholarship in the education field to achieve advancements in PHN program outcomes.

Source of Funding
Australian Teaching and Learning Council

Abstracts CD