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Development of an evidence-based framework to support knowledge translation within the Australian Dementia Training and Study Program

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Abstract

Abstract presented at the National Dementia Research Forum 2014, 19 September 2014, Sydney, Australia

Keywords

within, program, training, australian, framework, evidence, support, development, study, dementia, knowledge, translation

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enhancement, competencies in NYUCI practice, and intake of knowledge overall. A series of attitude statements measuring learner satisfactions was also included.

A significant difference was found in knowledge acquisition from pre- to post-online training. Limitations of the study, recommendations for improvements to the online training program, and future research suggestions are discussed.

■ A26 - A consumer guide to getting the most out of respite services for carers of people with dementia

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Despite the widespread availability of respite services in Australia, uptake by consumers has been lower than expected. While service availability and flexibility can present barriers to use, carer-related factors also create barriers, such as lack of sufficient information and not recognising or accepting the need for respite.

In 2011, the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre – Carers and Consumers conducted a survey of 336 Australian carers of people with dementia about their respite experiences. The survey contained many open-ended questions which yielded rich information about carers' experiences, some of which could be directly translated into suggestions for other carers about effectively utilising respite. Carers not as familiar with respite might benefit from hearing the words of other carers, helping them to feel more comfortable trying respite themselves. Thus, we used material from this survey to develop a consumer respite guide from the carers' point of view. We also sought direct input from the Consumer Dementia Research Network (CDRN) for additional suggestions.

Importantly, the guide is designed to act as a source of information from the carers' perspective, and in that way goes beyond the standard information sources, which tend to be in the form of information from professionals and organisations rather than peers. Also making this guide unique is its use of illustration and story-telling to provide information and advice, as well as a section of specific advice gathered directly from other carers. The CDRN are being continuously consulted as the draft develops, such that the final version will constitute a carers' resource contributed to and approved by other carers.

The Consumer Guide will be added to the DCRC website and also produced as a booklet of stories and advice. Examples of illustrated stories and carer advice will be included on the poster.

■ A27 - Development of an evidence-based framework to support knowledge translation within the Australian Dementia Training and Study Program

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BACKGROUND:

One of the National Priority Areas (2010-2012) for the Australian Dementia Training Study Centres' (DTSC) program was the development and implementation of a National Knowledge Translation (KT) Framework.

METHODS:

Using an adapted Pathman model, the DTSCs were supported through a process of 'awareness' raising, developing 'agreement' around a KT framework, 'adoption' of the framework, and 'adherence' through the embedding of the framework within the then Department of Health and Ageing's reporting policies and procedures. A series of activities were utilised to support this process across the KT continuum including: a literature review; national consultations; a DTSC KT grant scheme; mapping of DTSC KT strategies within a series of educational case studies and interviews with DTSC directors and managers.

RESULTS:

The project led to several important outcomes including: the development of a highly feasible evidence-based conceptual framework for Knowledge Transfer and Translation; 'Agreement' and 'Adoption' of the DTSC KT Framework by the department and the five DTSCs nationally; the production of five DTSC KT case studies; and, the development of a set of expert practice descriptors for achieving Knowledge Transfer and Translation within the education and training of graduate and undergraduate health professionals who care for people with dementia.

This project addresses a significant contribution to the development of a recognised dementia-specific framework and practice descriptors to support knowledge transfer and translation within the education and training of health professionals. It positions the Australian DTSC program as a leader in knowledge translation within the education and training sphere. Given the pressing need to build the capacity of the dementia care workforce and proposed changes in the organisation of Australian dementia research funding, the use of educational approaches which can move beyond information transfer to support effective KT will become increasingly important.