Evaluating student-led services in remote communities

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Rogano Session
Service Overview

Western Cape York – Far North Queensland

- Weipa - population: 3,899 (19.5% ATSI)
- Napranum – population: 907
- Allied Health Professionals:
  - Weipa: Dietitian, Occupational Therapist, Physio, Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Radiography, Sonography
  - Visiting: Podiatrist, Audiology
The Problem:

- Sole allied health practitioners
- Servicing large geographical area
  - (Western Cape – Weipa, Napranum, Mapoon, Aurukun, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw)
- Large unmet need for community rehabilitation
- Traditional student supervision models

Solution:

- Pilot student-led inter-professional service
  - Napranum and Weipa
Research Question

Does an inter-professional student-led service add value to health services for people living with a disability or frail age in Cape York?
Participatory Action Research (PAR)
“Be in the community as a member first and researcher second. This means multiple responsibilities (not just to a university or a ‘committee’) and relationships with people had a variety of dimensions…methods began to felt like a recursive process rather than one procedure, apart from the whole.” Mary Hermes
Research question

Does an interprofessional student-led service add value to health services for people living with a disability or frail aged in Cape York?
Stage 1 - Quantitative
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Demographic & service delivery information
Goal-based outcomes
Growth and Empowerment Measure
Generic Satisfaction survey
Stage 1 - Quantitative

MICRRH Allied Health Student Evaluation (self-report likert scale)
Generic satisfaction survey
Stage 1 - Quantitative

Pre, during and post:
- occasions of service
- allied health referral rate
- readmission and preventable admission data (patient matched)

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Stage 2 - Qualitative

• Service fidelity to plan
• Satisfaction and appropriateness of the service model
• Barriers and facilitators
Discussion Points

• Can these methods be reliably scaled-up?
  – Pilot → Larger service evaluation
  – Is PAR feasible across multiple sites

• Value-adding
  – meaningful Health Service outcomes
References

- Growth and Empowerment Measure: Collaborative Research on Empowerment & Wellbeing Team, University of Queensland and the Empowerment Research Program, James Cook University.