Increasing the quantity and quality of rural placement for Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery Students
University Of South Australia School Of Nursing And Midwifery

The Project Aims
This project is funded through Health Workforce Australia for the facilitation of undergraduate University Of South Australia students studying Midwifery, Nursing and Physiotherapy. It is a localized project that targets Gawler, Tanunda, Angaston, Kapunda and Eudunda Health Services within The Barossa Hills, Fleurieu Rural Region of South Australia. It is funded until December 2013.

The project aims to:
> Increase number of undergraduate student placements.
> Expand clinical training capacity. Encourage students to consider a career in a rural region.
> Assist students to develop knowledge and skills that will assist them to work in rural areas.

The Implementation
A project steering committee was appointed from the representing Hospitals, Community Services, University Of South Australia and included the participating Hospitals' Directors of Nursing.
A clinical facilitation team of 3 was appointed, and consists of:
> An Education Facilitator
> A Nursing Clinical Facilitator
> A Midwifery/Nursing Clinical Facilitator

A project plan was developed inclusive of the health workforce reform agenda. University of South Australia Clinical education workshops were attended by facilitators and some venue staff members.

Clinical facilitators worked with students and clinicians to enable students to be a resource to the health service.
The implementation of a developmental evaluation framework enabled the ongoing development of the project.

Achievements to Date
> Increased number of students across the cluster.
> Students offered a diverse range of practice settings to promote broad skill development with emphasis on rural setting.
> Interim evaluation of the formative data collected showed high levels of student satisfaction with their placement venues, preceptors and facilitator.
> Education room for Cluster Hospitals.
> Achieving Health Workforce Australia’s goals in relation to this project’s expectations.

Challenges to Date
> Venue staff mind set.
> Educating staff.
> Clarifying the role of facilitators in trial model.
> Distance and travel arrangements.
> Coordination of student placement rosters.
> Communication between facilitators and venue staff.

2013 Plan Onwards
In the coming year the project needs to further address:
> Sustainability,
> Enhanced understanding of health reform
> Opportunities for interdisciplinary action
> Clinicians undertaking of facilitator role.

2012 HWA days required and offered

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<th>Discipline</th>
<th>HWA placement days required</th>
<th>HWA placement days offered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>4395.7</td>
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<td>Midwifery</td>
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<td>815.7</td>
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<td>Physiotherapy</td>
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<td>83.4</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Projected 2013 HWA days

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<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>HWA placement days required</th>
<th>Proposed HWA placement days for 2013</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>5511.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwifery</td>
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<td>1211.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6738.1</td>
<td>6819.14</td>
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Morgan Smith 2012, Placements for 2013 issues and proposal, Clinical Facilitation Steering committee, BHRRR

For more information
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