Coordinated Interprofessional Curriculum Renewal for eHealth Capability in Clinical Health Professional Degrees

Newsletter 4, March 2012

Welcome to the fourth quarterly newsletter for this project. These newsletters are circulated among members of the reference group and other interested parties. For more information, please contact health-informatics@unimelb.edu.au.

Workshops

Four national workshops were successfully run in the month of February. The workshops were held in Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. Over 50 academic coordinators and directors, from across different clinical health professions and states in Australia, attended the workshops.

Photo: Participants engaging in group activity in WA workshop

Participants had the opportunity to engage with panellists from the government and health industry. They also had the opportunity to work with people from different health professions.

The National EHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA) showed their support for this project by having their senior staff, involved in the development of a national education strategy, be a panellist at all the workshops. In addition to this, NEHTA held a session in conjunction with the workshops that related to the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) system which is to be rolled out in June 2012.

More details of the workshop and the data collected are in the workshop report (provided with this newsletter and summarised overleaf).

Workshop Report

A report based on the workshop series is attached with this newsletter. It provides the preliminary findings from the data collected, through individual and group work.

The importance of ehealth education and an ehealth competent workforce was clear to the participants. But when they were questioned about learning outcomes, teaching methods and assessment activities, many were unable to provide a response. This is a significant result. Further investment of expertise and resources is required at management levels for any chance of significant changes.

Reflections on Workshops

The project team were able to observe some successful outcomes from the workshops:

1. There is an interest amongst academic coordinators/directors of various clinical health profession degrees, about ehealth education.

2. Interprofessional collaborations are certainly possible amongst academic coordinators and directors of entry level health profession degrees. This was highlighted in the group activity where each team consisted of participants from different clinical health professions.

3. The workshops have encouraged the participants, panellists and other stakeholders to collaborate and continue to discuss ehealth education for future clinical health professionals.

Partnerships for Further Work

The project team is actively exploring potential partnerships with other interest groups that can further ehealth education for future health professionals.

Reference group members are urged to provide suggestions for potential forums (conferences, journals) where the results from the project thus far can be disseminated and communicated widely.

Please email Ms. Ambica Dattakumar if you have any suggestions or comments.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of our team members or view our project website
http://clinicalinformaticseducation.pbworks.com

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