

Theme: What's new in field education in 21st century Australia?

Student led social work clinic hub: Increasing capacity in challenging contexts

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Social work and human services (SWHS) field education continues to experience challenges in securing quality practicums. Increasing competition through multiple schools of SW&HS, increased enrolments, government cut backs to services resulting in ongoing insecurity around roles and the future of services and their capacity, have all created a landscape where organisational capacity to offer practicums continues to reduce. Added to this is the availability of appropriately qualified on site social workers to supervise students.

Student led clinics are not a new concept; they provide an innovative and creative way to provide quality and meaningful placement experiences for students while also creating increased capacity in services offered.

In this presentation we discuss the progress of a newly developed Social Work student hub based with the QUT Health Clinics at QUT as part of the School of Public Health and Social Work. The Social Work student hub will commence in July 2014 with a significant focus on the Vision Rehabilitation Centre. The aim of introducing social work services was to increase the capacity of existing psychosocial service offerings in the Vision Rehabilitation Centre and introduce services to the QUT Health Clinics, including provision of outreach services to community organisations.