Simulated Learning Environment Program for Mental Health Students and Clinicians

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This project was possible due to funding made available by Health Workforce Australia.
Vision

“The St John of God Health Care simulated learning environment enhances student clinical placements and ongoing staff development through the creation of high fidelity mental health simulations.

Through innovation and collaboration, our SLE promotes clinical skill development, interprofessional learning and excellence in mental health care."
Why?

- Enhance clinical placements in mental health context
- No limits on patient access
- No threat to patient safety
- Very realistic
Who?

- Nursing and medical students on clinical placements at St John of God Health Care Richmond and Burwood hospitals
- SJGHC Clinical facilitators (nursing)
- Australian Centre for Health Innovation
- Professional actors as simulated patient
- Experienced clinicians – nursing, allied health, medicine
When?

- Started in February 2013
- 3 pilots – testing tech
- Weekly
- During clinical placement
- First simulation workshop no earlier than day 3 of placement
Where?

- Simulation occurs at CHI in Melbourne
- Students are on site at Richmond and Burwood
- Web casting between all sites
How?

• Experienced nurses and psychologists create simulated patient profiles using template from Victorian Simulation Association

• Actor & interviewing clinician cast:
  • Briefed about project, screened for suitability & safety
  • Contracted
  • Briefed on role in detail - questions followed up with author
How?

- On the day – sound checks, camera shot set up, video conference connections tested
- Simulation runs live and uninterrupted
Centre for Health Innovation - Melbourne
How?
Simulation in action
Linda Shaw – Bipolar Disorder (manic)
Jeremy Black - Depression
Learning activity

- Feedback direct to camera for students from clinician and actor afterwards
- Workshop of up to two hours after simulation
  - debrief, group discussions
Workshop
Reaction - students

• “Great! Wish the university had this experience!”

• “The group work at the end of the simulation was good. It helped to bring the simulation to life and to better understand the issues presented.”
Reaction - Students

• “Thank you very much for being able to offer such a fantastic resource to me as a student. I feel this experience has deeply enhanced my learning.”

• “Have learnt more from these sessions than from a whole semester of seminars @ uni.”

• “I feel like I am there listening with their conversation. This feeling is just real.”
Reaction - Actors

Working on this simulation was...

• ...rewarding, great fun and satisfying. Some of the most interesting work I've had the privilege of taking part in. I would strongly recommend this to other actors and hope to do a lot more of this kind of work in the future! Thanks for hiring me.

• ...wonderful and challenging. It really pushed me to deeper places as an actor, and I am very grateful to have assisted medical professional in this way.
Reaction - Caregivers

Working on this simulation was...

• exciting, novel, educational and a very nice adjunct to clinical work. thank you for the opportunity.

• ...a rewarding and interesting experience.

• ...a worthwhile training experience for students in allied health fields.
Next steps

• Further 18 months funding from HWA to continue the program until December 2014.

• Expanding program to include allied health and paramedic students

• 6 more scenarios to be developed in 2013/14

• Expand access to other institutions – Pinelodge in Melbourne

• Substitution for some disciplines
Scott Gooding plays JEREMY BLACK, a 37 year old man with a long history of depression, who is an inpatient currently undergoing electroconvulsive therapy.

Caregiver Samantha Merry (Nurse)
Case written by Sian James.

Play Time 00:00 Minutes