

Making it real – student education in rural allied health disability services



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What this presentation will cover

- Why this program
- What we did
- Results so far
- What next?



Why?

- Recruitment and retention of Allied Health Professionals (AHP) in rural areas is challenging, more so in complex areas such as mental health, aged care and disability
- NDIS roll out has increased the demand for AHP
- Grow a skilled workforce to meet the need
- Keep AHP in rural areas
- Building capacity – allied health services closer to home for rural people



What did we do?

- Got staff on board
- Identified disciplines to focus on
- Targeted approach – contacted universities who were most likely to be the university of choice for rural students
- Student education program
- New graduate program



Student placements – setting it up

- Scholarships
- Accommodation
- Orientation
- Resources – One Note tool kit
- Peer education framework
- Pairing staff and students
- Co-design focus – learn and build as we go
- Build relationships and partnerships



Barriers

- Pre-Planning
- Time
- Cost
- Attracting students to come to our rural region
- Support network



Our First Students



What does a student placement look like?

- Staff member from day one
- Team member
- Access to resources
- Case load
- Scheduling
- Outreach
- Workshops
- Projects



Part of the team



Outreach towns



Student feedback – my favourite experience

I highly valued the opportunity to take part in cultural awareness

Unforgettable

Conducting therapies to children in outreach areas who otherwise would not be able to access services

The outreach visits, even though they were also the most stressful! I learnt a lot of valuable things from it.



Cultural awareness workshop



Student feedback – key messages

- Person-centred practice
- Multidisciplinary model of service
- Outreach
- Cultural awareness
- Learning about disability and the NDIS



Student projects – Talking Mats and group home education



Results

- Increase in Student numbers
- Number of staff providing clinical education has increased (many for the first time)
- Strategic partnerships have been developed
- Input into clinical education training
- Pipeline is working!



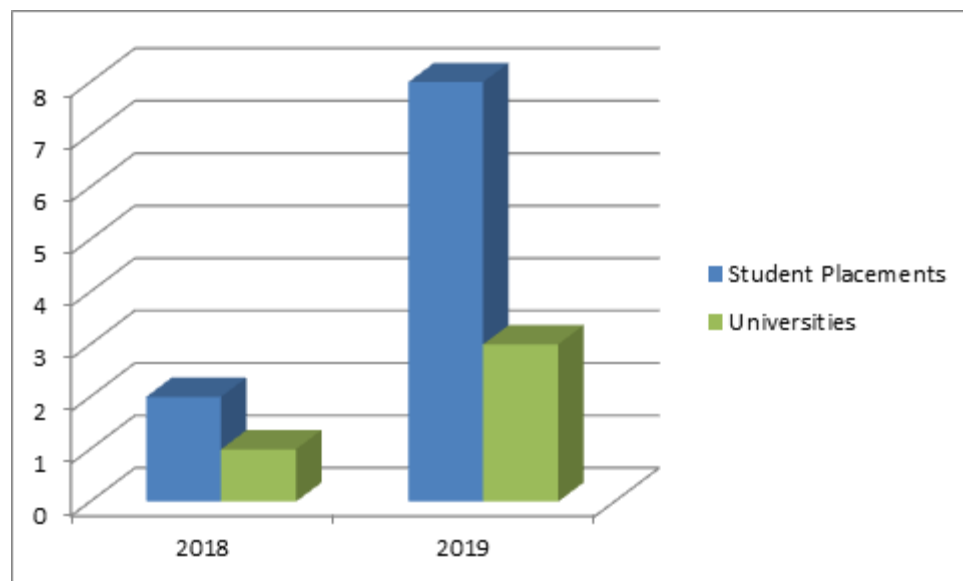
Results

2018

- Two OT students
- One university

2019

- Two OT students
- Nine SP students
- Three universities



Putting it all together – growing workforce



New graduate program



What next

- Potential for replication in other regions
- Potential for application across all disciplines
- Multidisciplinary placements
- Shared clinical placements
- Further clinical education opportunities for staff – post graduate qualifications and research
- Discussions with universities about increasing disability content in curriculum – guest lectures
- Retention strategies



Questions?

