

16 May 2019

Inaugural Interprofessional Health Education Colloquium Demonstrates Need for Collaborative ‘Person-centred’ Health Care

More than 100 delegates across health, education, accreditation, and regulation gathered in early May at the Sofitel in Melbourne for an inaugural interprofessional health education colloquium, with the theme ‘Together we can do more’, jointly organised by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). The event provided presentations and interactive sessions to educate for social accountability across the health professions. The range of delegates in attendance suggested there was real demand for interprofessional education and collaboration to achieve quality ‘person-centred’ health care.

As leading accreditation and education standard-setting bodies, both councils identified a need for education to shift its emphasis away from clinically siloed care and more towards team-based quality care that can be effectively shaped according to patient need. This resulted in the two Councils partnering for the first time to design and deliver an interprofessional colloquium.

“The Colloquium endowed delegates with reflections on the way we must engage with our clients and recognise the whole person and their origins,” said ANMAC CEO Fiona Stoker

“As health professionals, our role is to bring together the right people, at the right time for the right condition to improve health outcomes for all patients,” said APC CEO Bronwyn Clark.

Delegates comprised of nurses, midwives, pharmacists, other health professionals, academics, educators, students and regulators filled the room to critically examine how interprofessional education and collaboration can make the difference to deliver culturally sensitive, empathetic and holistic person-centred-care.

University of Sydney third-year nursing student, Emma McEwan-Ferguson, was drawn to the colloquium’s focus on interprofessional collaboration and the opportunity to meet other health professionals. Ms McEwan-Ferguson said the one word that best described the event for her was “insightful”.

“This event challenged my thoughts and understandings of topics. By collaborating and considering each person’s role we can work better with patients and their families to deliver more efficient care by meeting their needs and goals,” Ms. McEwan-Ferguson said.

The event featured 14 leading academics and experts from Australia and New Zealand presenting on topics that included: improving Indigenous health outcomes, team-based learning, technology and mental health, and embedding empathetic practices in patient-centred-care.

Indigenous health leaders Leanne Te Karu and Janine Mohamed shared their stories and outlined the need for cultural safety to improve access and outcomes for their people.

“If we don’t collaborate, we don’t have all the pieces to the jigsaw puzzle and those gaps will continue to derail and undermine what can and should be achieved through team-based care,” said Ms Te Karu.

Colloquium highlights included:

- Associate Professor Neil Cottrell, Dr Norman Ng, Professor Sarah Roberts, and Dr Marion Tower from the University of Queensland (UQ) led an interprofessional learning session, where delegates learned how to remove the narrow lens by which people perceive their own profession to break biases and enable collaboration;
- Suzanne Caliph, Dr Sarah Rotstein, and Laura Dean, an interprofessional team from Monash University explained the correlation between empathy and effective patient-centred care. Anna Barwick from University of New England (UNE) presented her research on measuring empathy in the student cohort;
- Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Dr Alice Gilbert and Federation University's Professor Wendy Cross examined the effects that technology is having on mental health and how that impacts on managing the health of others. Dr Gilbert and Professor Cross gave delegates a wake-up call about the impact of "nomophobia" (the irrational fear of being without a mobile phone); and
- Professor Lisa Nissen from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) presented a hypothetical on a poor patient outcome due to lack of inter-professional collaboration with Credential Diabetes Educator Alison Menzies.

More than 90% of attendees who provided feedback following the event indicated it delivered on their expectations and they would return for a future interprofessional colloquium. ANMAC and APC recognise the need for continuous quality interprofessional education and plan to keep the colloquium as a regular feature on the annual calendar.

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About ANMAC

ANMAC protects the health and safety of the Australian community by establishing high-quality standards of nursing and midwifery education, training and assessment. ANMAC is the independent accrediting authority for nursing and midwifery education under Australia's National Registration and Accreditation Scheme; and the skills assessing authority for nurses and midwives wishing to migrate under the Australian Government's General Skilled Migration program.

www.anmac.org.au

About APC

APC is the authority that accredits pharmacy education and training in Australia and New Zealand on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) and the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (PCNZ). APC maintains the high standards of pharmacy education and assess the competency of Australian interns and overseas pharmacists as part of its role to protect the public.

www.pharmacycouncil.org.au