FACT SHEET – Benefits of Project Focused Placements

Clinical Educator Benefits

• Suited to clinicians working in less traditional non-government roles such as private practice, health promotion, case management and consultant roles.
• Provides opportunity to monitor and support the set-up and evaluation of a role for occupational therapy services in an area of identified need.
• Gain research-based evidence of community needs in areas where occupational therapy services don’t already exist or are under-serviced, in order to propose a role for occupational therapy.
• Monitor and support the set-up and evaluation of a role for occupational therapy services or programs in an area of identified need.
• Provides opportunity to put ideas into practice.
• Provides opportunity to strengthen relationships within community and build partnerships with community-based services.
• Student can develop valuable resources and contribute to quality assurance activities and processes.
• Can be created as part of a role-emerging placement or an inter-agency model with clinical educator/s from related settings which would benefit part-time clinical educators or those with very heavy work and time demands.
• Suited to clinicians working in less traditional non-government and/or community-based roles such as in private practice, health promotion services, case management and consultant roles. (Fortune, Farnworth & McKinstry, 2006; Thomas, Penman & Williamson, 2005)

Student Benefits

• Broadens the range of services students experience.
• Exposes students to new and potential areas of practice such as health promotion or preventative living skills programs.
• Provides opportunity to develop and/or evaluate a new or existing program.
• Provides opportunity to develop project development and management skills including:
  - Benchmarking
  - Scoping and developing a project brief including projected outcomes
  - Conducting needs assessment/analysis
  - Submission and proposal writing
  - Engaging with communities
  - Managing tight task completion deadlines
  - Selecting appropriate outcome measures
  - Performing project evaluations
  - Writing literature reviews, teamwork and delegation
• Provides opportunity to contribute to the establishment of new practice roles and settings for the occupational therapy profession

• Increases students’ awareness of how facilities operate and also of the political and financial influences affecting their services

• Promotes development of skills in team work and communication as the student is required to work directly with multi-disciplinary staff, volunteers, and community members.

• When two or more students work together on a role emerging placement, they are likely to feel more supported.


**Benefits for the host facility:**

• Gains first hand experience and insight into what Occupational Therapy can offer.

• The outcome of the project is beneficial for the agency/organisation

• Project outcomes may assist with success in future funding submissions for related programs and services (Queensland Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Collaborative [QOTFC], 2007).

**References:**


For more information about project focused placements, in addition to a wide range of OT practice education resources, visit our website at:

otpecq.group.uq.edu.au