

SUGGESTION SHEET – Maximising Benefit of Placements in Private Practice

The following suggestions may increase productivity both in short-term - such as reducing practitioner time spent performing administrative, documentation and follow-up tasks and, in the long-term - such as improved quality assurance practices and marketing strategies, broadening of business profile, streamlining of processes, and reducing time and costs involved with recruitment. Consider the following:

- Offering extra services at no cost :
 - the student may be able to provide a longer client consultation either preceding or following the practitioner consultation to address certain issues relating to client referral e.g to interview client regarding background medical and functional history, to continue with a longer treatment, to provide education about ergonomics or work station set-up etc
 - providing student-led follow-up services to assess the outcome of prior interventions, ergonomics interventions or home modifications. (This could be used for Quality Assurance)
 - providing additional student-led services between practitioner consultations
- Offering lower cost services with student involvement to people that would have difficulty affording a full service or who are uninsured.
- Utilising students to do “draft” reports, correspondence letters to clients, appointment scheduling and phone liaisons
- Utilising students to develop IT solutions for your business such as formatting of marketing or educational material, development of PowerPoint presentations.
- Utilising students as feedback to inform transparency and ease in systems and procedures. Setting an administrative project with the student to develop alternative systemic options.
- Developing a student project around the development of an aspect of practice or business e.g to develop client educational tools; to perform a literature review on a relevant topic, to perform a research project or analysis of particular occupational issues relating to clientele and their particular functional settings.
- Considering the potential for future recruitment of students who have completed a placement at your practice and the reduced time and cost that would be involved in the recruitment and orientation process.

Reference:

Rorke,L. (2005) *Clinical education in private practice. Creating “win, win ,win” for students, universities and private practitioners [Discussion paper]* Queensland Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Collaborative. Australia.