Positive Approach to Care of the Older Person Dementia eLearning Program North Coast Area Health Service

Introduction

NSW Health Dementia Action Plan has identified dementia education as a priority. The challenge is to deliver learning that is sustainable, accessible to rural/remote clinicians, is engaging and interactive, provides value for money and addresses workplace culture and practice.

The academic content and the program syllabus was developed in partnership between the NSW Dementia Clinical Nurse Consultants and the University of Newcastle.

Aim

To improve clinicians' knowledge, attitude and understanding of how to recognise and improve the care of people living with dementia and their carer and to influence workplace attitudes toward dementia care.

Program overview

- 12-week facilitated eLearning program – moodle platform
- Discussion forums
- Online chats
- Quizzes, music, photos and wiki
- Participant profile and activity
- References and resources

Syllabus content

- Framework of Person-Centred Care
- Dementia within a biomedical model
- Complexities of dementia
- Recognising and managing pain
- Improving nutrition for the person with dementia
- Avoiding falls and promoting mobility
- Critical enquiry and reflection
- Engaging in research and current literature

Successful strategies for sustainability

- NSW Dementia Clinical Nurse Consultants facilitate program
- Accessible from the World Wide Web
- User friendly platform
- Free to NSW Health employees
- Links to relevant websites
- Resources regularly updated
- Each course develops its own characteristics
- Application of learning in the workplace

Outcomes to September 09

- Thirty trained facilitators across NSW
- 210 clinicians have completed the course
- Delivery of Person-Centred Care
- Collaboration between clinicians and Information Systems staff
- Improved clinician knowledge and management of dementia
- Innovative education delivery to rural NSW
- Facilitator and User Guides
- Established network for sharing ideas and best practice in dementia care

Where to from here

- Royal College of Nursing Australia endorsement: 25 CNE points
- Extend access to other aged care service providers outside health
- New module for community workers
- New Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia module

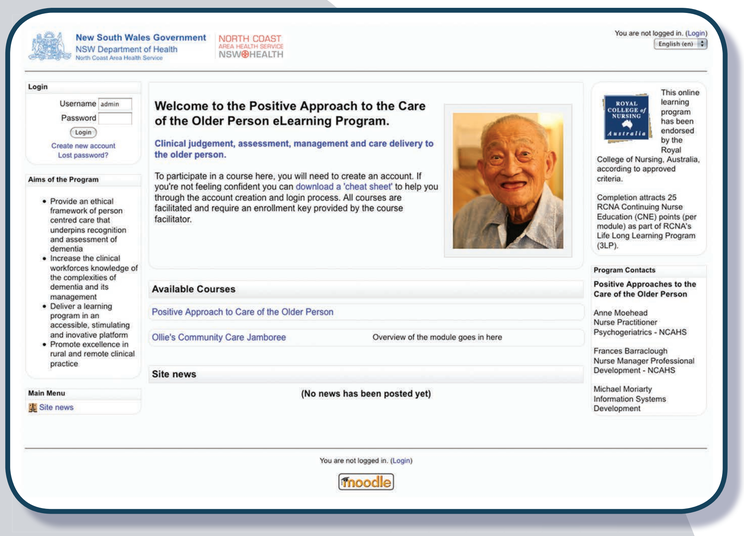
For further information please contact

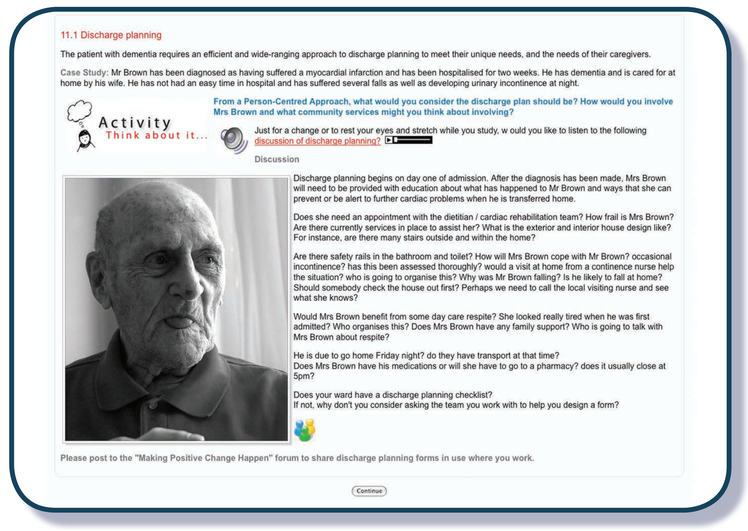
Anne Moehead Nurse Practitioner Psychogeriatrics NCAHS
✆ 02 6620 2612 ✉ anne.moehead@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Michael Moriarty Information Systems Development NCAHS
✆ 02 6620 2186 ✉ michael.moriarty@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Frances Barraclough Nurse Manager Professional Development
✆ 02 6620 2143 ✉ frances.barraclough@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

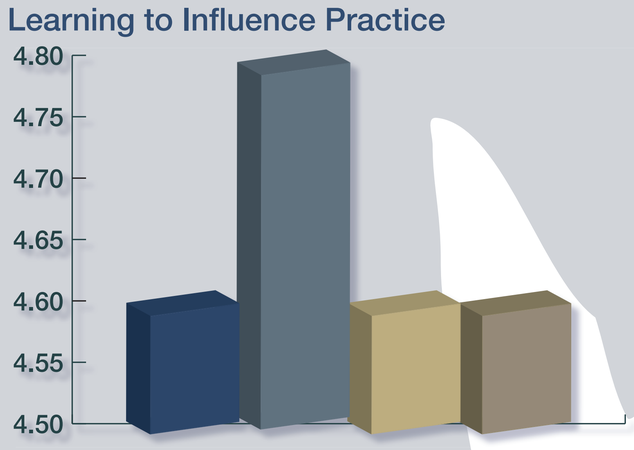
"It was positive for me because it was something new and a challenge.."





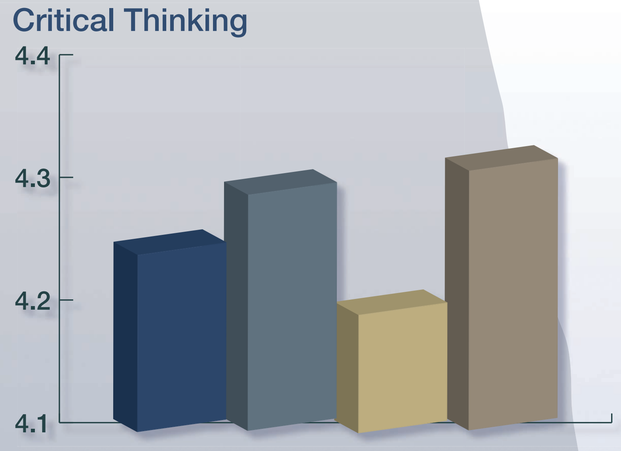
A Likert Psychometric Scale of **1: Strongly disagree** to **5: Strongly Agree** was used across various domains to evaluate the program. The following graphs illustrate the results.

Learning to Influence Practice



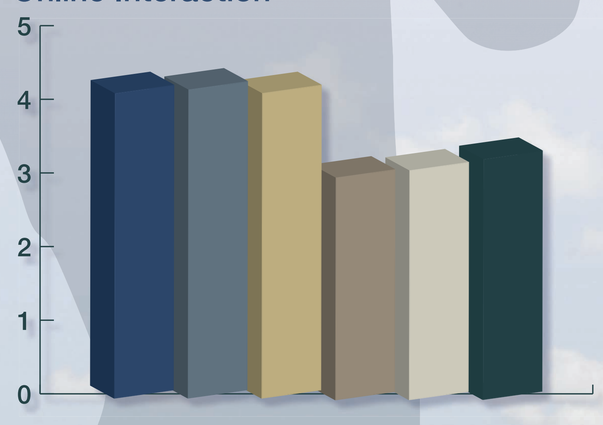
"A rewarding experience to learn more IT skills and terms."

Critical Thinking



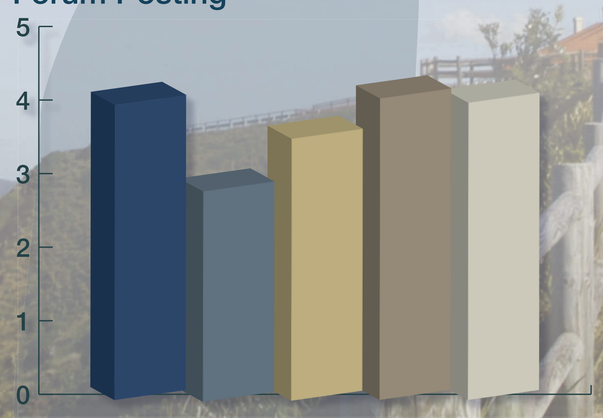
"I loved the lessons, you can go through them a number of times in your pjs ..."

Online Interaction



"It was well organised and fun to go through."

Forum Posting



"Allows for positive learning and a good site to refer other colleagues to."

NSW HEALTH

NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE
NSW HEALTH