

Nobody left behind:

Continuing education for rural Victorian allied health professionals

A state-wide program with enhanced access

Steve Trickey
Information Services Division
Flinders University



With permission from Boré Hoekstra

CPD and workforce enhancement

- Rural professionals want CPD (Stagnitti et al. 2005)
- Poor access to CPD is a major 'least liked' factor in rural employment (Belcher et al. 2005)
- Access to CPD can influence the choice to elect rural practice after graduation (Heaney et al. 2004)

Aims

- Establish sustainable state-wide **interactive** CPD
- Provide multiple access routes (e.g., video or virtual conferencing, on demand, post workshop discussion groups) to ensure high availability
- Offer topics of interest to different professions
- Facilitate allied health networks and interprofessional practice
- Create the opportunity for professionals to re-enter the workforce
- Improve self-management, team skills and leadership
- Enhance career options in rural Victoria

Interactive Learning

Thirty-two studies, a total of 36 comparisons.
The studies involved 2995 health professionals

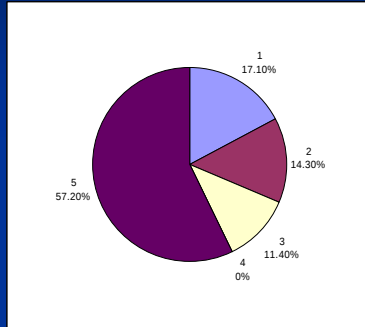
- Interactive workshops can result in moderately large changes in professional practice.
- Didactic sessions alone are unlikely to change professional practice.

(Thomson O'Brien et al 2006)

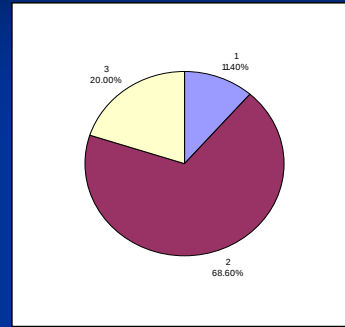
Development of tailored CPD

- Pilot project conducted during 2006 to provide CPD to workers in the Barwon South West and Wimmera regions
- Participation both in person and via video conference

Attendance & Perceived Benefit



57.2% attended $\geq$ four



68.6% some effect

20.0% large effect

Acceptability of VC Technology

- VC access increases participation:
 - 86% **yes**
- Satisfactory standard of CPD via VC:
 - 100% **yes**
- Benefit of VC compared with face-to-face:
 - acceptable (**slightly better with speaker**) to
 - very good (**no difference**)
- General comments:
 - It's been fantastic
 - Please don't stop!!

Video Conference concerns

- Concerns about increasing VC:
 - 100% **no concerns**
- Remarks about increasing VC:
 - Face-to face should still be an option
 - Realisation of costs (e.g., travel)
 - Need to use other networking opportunities

Expanding to Statewide

Roadshow format utilising Health agencies & Edu Centres

Warrnambool
Hamilton
Horsham
Ballarat
Mildura
Bendigo

Shepparton
Benalla
Wangaratta
Wodonga
Traralgon
Bairnsdale
Geelong

Technology layers

- Video Conferencing
- Rich Media Presentations
 - Web streaming
 - On demand recordings
- Portal (access, feedback, discussion, peer interaction)
- To come...
 - Inter-agency data exchange
 - Additional portal items (wiki, repository etc)

Web portal

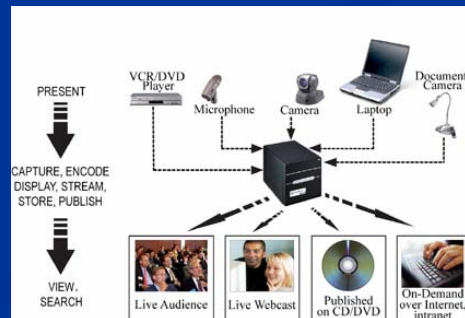
- Collate info and provide sense of community
- Personalised access to CPD info
- Archive of presentations and other material
- Online discussion board
- Email lists
- Announcements
- Calendar
- Evaluation / feedback



Presentation Recorder

- CBOX3 – <http://www.winnov.com>

- 6 x Video Sources
- 4 x Audio Sources
- A/V output
- VGA screen & video capture



Self-contained system (just add power)



Demonstrations

Technology Issues

- Participants not scared of technology!
- Regional networks
 - Bandwidth, firewalls, throttles etc.
- Plans for pooling of MCUs
- Dual video problems
- Portal backflip

Questions?

Thank you

Steve Trickey
Remote IT Services
Flinders University

steve.trickey@flinders.edu.au