

Research integrated into clinical placement offers a unique opportunity to engage a large number of students and preceptors in research methods to support skill development

Reshape and Reinvigorate our Experiential Learning Placements for Students

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Background

- Research is essential for evidence-based practice and continuous improvement in health care, yet engagement in research is not common for hospital clinical pharmacists.
- Studies have shown that involvement in research projects as an undergraduate student leads to higher research skills and success later in their career.
- All University of South Australia (SA) student undertake an experiential learning placement in a SA public hospital, creating a unique opportunity for all undergraduate students to contribute to the same research study.

Objective

- This research project was undertaken to explore consumer engagement in the decision to commence new medicines and develop the research skills of pharmacy students and pharmacist preceptors. Ultimately this aims to increase research culture and capacity across the organisation.
- The study needed to be able to be undertaken at all SA Pharmacy sites, and be simple enough for all students to be involved in data collection, to ensure data integrity.

Action (Method)

- Consumer engagement in the decision to commence a new medicine was chosen as our research question based on:
 - Relevance to clinical practice
 - Suitability for data collection by all pharmacy students in all sites and locations
 - Utilisation of a range of methods important for the development of student and preceptor research skills
 - Ease of collecting standardised data
- A research team was identified to develop the methodology and robust support materials to aid student and preceptors.
- This research was developed to include a wide range of methods (figure 1), to give students and preceptors the opportunity to learn about a variety of research methods.
- Site leads were identified and were trained in educational visiting to support the project over the 2-year time-frame of the project data collection period.
- Data on uptake was collected between each block of students to enable implementation methods to be adapted to improve engagement.

Action (Method)

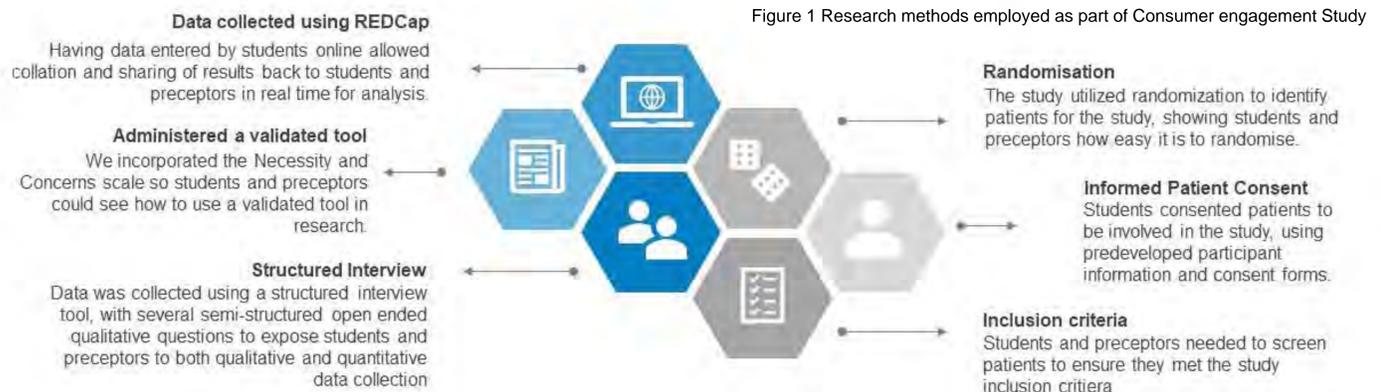


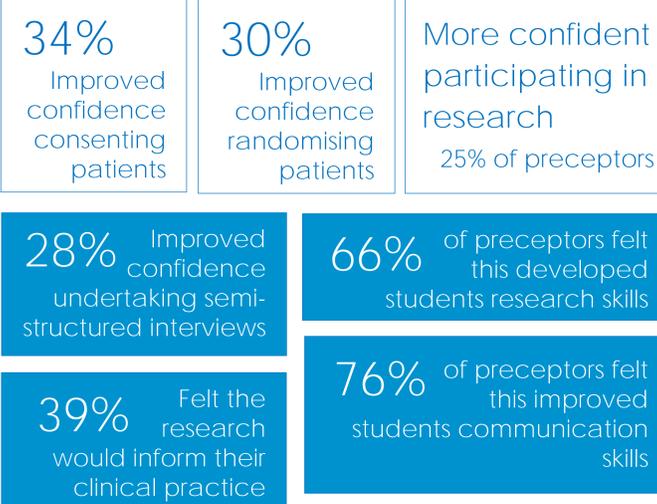
Figure 1 Research methods employed as part of Consumer engagement Study

Evaluation

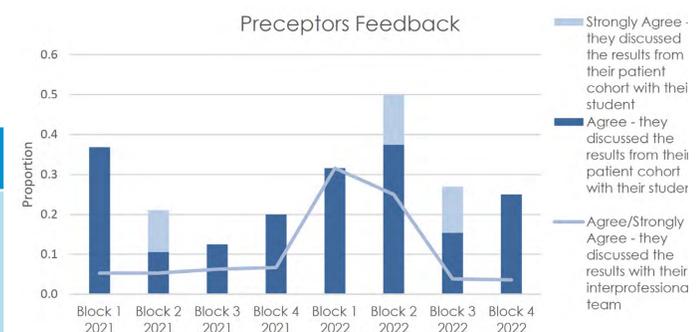
Preceptors were asked to complete a survey using Survey Monkey at the completion of placement to establish their engagement in the research.

Results

- 198 Students randomized 4939 patients for inclusion in the study. 416 patients met inclusion criteria and were consented for involvement in the study.
- 172/217 preceptors responded to the survey across the 2-year program.



Results



Discussion

- Student experiential learning placements offer a unique opportunity for students and pharmacist preceptors to engage in meaningful clinical research and support research learning (Figure 2).
- Implementation this program offers a great opportunity to support research skill development. Investment into preceptor support is essential to support engagement.
- Future research exploring the barriers and enablers for preceptor engagement would be useful in designing supports that improve preceptor engagement, and result in higher levels of engagement with interprofessional teams locally.



Figure 2 Model of learning for students and preceptors

