

2008 UQ Health Care Team Challenge a success

Congratulations to the students of Team "CAREAIDE", who are the winners of the 2nd Healthcare Team Challenge (HCTC), which was held on Monday, 19 May.

The interprofessional team presented the best patient care plan as judged by a panel of health industry experts at the event. They battled against two other teams in a very competitive event, staged at the UQ Centre and attended by Health Minister, Stephen Robertson, who presented certificates to participants (pictured). About 300 people attended, including participants, practitioners, students, academics, family members, Queensland Health representatives and interstate universities



Members of the winning team (pictured) were Kate Amos (Dentistry), Rachel Finbow (Audiology), Tanya Ann Bourke (Exercise Physiology), Sandra Concha Blamey (Medicine), Matilda Antonio (Nursing), Jessica Waite (Occupational Therapy), Emily Hay (Pharmacy), Meghann Geddes (Physiotherapy) and Brooke Grohn (Speech Pathology).

Prior to the competition, guest speaker, medical sociologist Jo Travaglia, a researcher in interprofessional education from the University of New South Wales, set the scene with a well received address on the relationship between interprofessional practice and patient safety.

"It is clear from all the research on patient safety that one of, if not, **the** most important factors in reducing errors is ensuring that different professions communicate well with each other and work effectively as a team. The HCTC is one of the best examples in Australia of how getting in early will ensure that the clinicians of the future don't repeat the mistakes of the past," she said.

Faculty of Health Sciences Director of Studies, Professor Helen Chenery, said the event offered students an important opportunity.

"Most health science professionals do not get to experience inter-professional practice on a significant level until they graduate or achieve their relevant qualifications," Helen said.

"The event not only gives students the chance to extend their knowledge about the dynamics and possible challenges of modern healthcare, but also enhances their knowledge about other health professions and their respective roles in the clinical area," she said.

Dr Rosalie Boyce, one of the HCTC project directors, said further enhancements to future events were under consideration. She said a prize to an exemplary functioning healthcare team in a health service and a prize to one of the student teams based on audience voting were being considered.

"Work is advancing on holding a Queensland HCTC event and an Australia-wide event as a fore-runner to international expansion of the concept. Our analysis of audience feedback showed 96% would like to see an inter-university competition and 93% would like to see an Australian team in an international event," Rosalie said.

Organisers would like to thank sponsors – HESTA Superannuation (Gold sponsor) and the Queensland Health Community Rehabilitation Workforce Project, for provision of the patient case study.