

Using Interprofessional Collaboration to cross boundaries and improve chronic disease care in rural communities

Introduction

- Interprofessional Collaboration (IPC) - foundation of future reform for Australian health care.
- Chronic Disease Care expected to consume 80% of the health budget in the future.
- Australian health & social care students gain IPC knowledge in their courses and need opportunities to participate or observe IPC in the practice setting.
- Health & Social care Interprofessional Network (HSIN), a MUDRIH initiative, works with current rural Victorian health care providers to bridge the IPC knowledge gap.

Rural IPC Hubs

Barwon Sth-West: Belmont & Warrnambool

Gippsland: Moe & Bairnsdale

Grampians: Ballarat & Hamilton (just starting)

Hume: Shepparton & Wangaratta

Loddon-Mallee: Bendigo & Mildura

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What does HSIN do?

- provides rural healthcare practitioners with opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills & practice in IPC.
- assists practitioners:
 - ◆ develop confidence in dealing with students from multiple disciplines within their working environment;
 - ◆ in developing interprofessional facilitation skills to work effectively with mixed groups of health students, or professionals; &
 - ◆ in building Interprofessional team capacity through improved communication, co-operation and collaboration strategies.

Conclusion: HSIN effective in:

- raising awareness about IPC
- assisting local health practitioners to better understand IPC
- facilitating discussion about rural Chronic Disease Management
- facilitating local IPC networks with support from the Voluntary IPC Facilitators
- sharing 3-monthly newsletter 'VicNews' with participants &
- providing free access to IPC resources via the HSIN website repository.

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/srh/mudrih>
then go to the HSIN repository of IPC resources