Developing clinical capacity and strengthening community engagement

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Many clinics develop as student placements, across a variety of disciplines, on university campuses, usually run by students and facilitated by staff. This showcase describes a different process of placement development and engagement. It describes how one community, non-government, clinical partner (Blue Care) engaged a university school (School of Nursing and Midwifery) in conversations to develop a successful partnership venture. The objectives were to: increase the number of nursing and allied health student placements in the community; provide high quality learning experiences in a supportive inter-professional environment; improve patient outcomes; and contribute to the University commitment to community engagement. So far, the clinic, staffed by Blue Care interdisciplinary staff, within University grounds, provides clinical placements for nursing, occupational therapy, and dietetic students. Data examples for this showcase have been collected from client and student feedback. The effectiveness of true interdisciplinary student placement at the clinic, providing high quality wound care for clients, has been evidenced by the student feedback comments and the successful healing of some very long term wounds. Other positive effects from the clinic include: the development of partnerships with medical specialists offering services for patients, developing a maintenance clinic and from other wound care research collaborative networks.

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