Physiotherapy students in Australia complete mandatory ‘core’ clinical placements in WIL. Health facilities are at capacity providing these placements. New Physiotherapy programmes and increasing numbers of students are presenting challenges for facilities to meet the growing demand for ‘core’ placements. New ways need to be explored to build capacity without compromising Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) accreditation requirements.

An innovative programme, ‘Imbedding simulation into clinical training’, funded by HWA is being implemented in sixteen Physiotherapy Programmes across Australia. All are using the same standardised scenarios with role-play actors and medium fidelity mannequins. A simulated ward and physiotherapy outpatient area (SLE) has been built for this project at The University of Notre Dame Australia, School of Physiotherapy.

To build capacity, the School has imbedded simulation into WIL facilities that cannot always fulfil APC requirements for a ‘core’ placement due to inconsistent numbers of patients presenting with specific medical conditions. Students attend the SLE once a week throughout their five-week placement. Using targeted scenarios to supplement and enhance the WIL experience these facilities can now consistently meet APC requirements for a ‘core’ placement.

This presentation will showcase the programme being implemented at the School of Physiotherapy, University of Notre Dame.