

The Centre for Professional Development

Faculty of Health Sciences La Trobe University

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Background

- The need for flexible and innovative professional education available in rural and regional Victoria
- Established 2002
- Initial partnership between the Dept of Human Services and La Trobe for 3 years (2002-2004) as regional initiative
- Basic philosophy:
 - flexible training programs which increase access for more formal university award programs
 - based on innovative approaches to learning
 - inter-professional

Aims

- To provide flexible continuing professional education (in-service) across health and human services sector (regional, statewide, national and international)
- To undertake relevant research on professional practice
- To establish relevant links university/industry links
- To foster relevant international networks

Activities

- Short course training (through workshops of half – 2 & half days) is offered in areas of current need/concern:
 - evidence-based practice
 - professional expertise
 - community capacity building
 - professional supervision
 - managing change in the workplace
 - writing for publication
 - professional expertise
 - working with social differences
 - working with grieving people
 - the enterprising practitioner
 - critical reflection

- These are offered on a regular “calendar” primarily in Bendigo and Melbourne, and elsewhere as commissioned

- Workshop training in “critical reflection”
 - a non-traditional approach for examining the underlying (“taken-for-granted”) thinking implicit in practice
 - a “bottom-up” approach to linking theory and practice
 - attempts to develop “practical theory” and in so doing evaluate its appropriateness
 - used for:
 - practice review and learning
 - research and evaluation
 - supervision
 - error management
 - organisational learning

- Research and research consultancies

- Professional supervision

- Postgraduate research supervision

- Conferences and seminars

- Graduate Certificate and Masters in Professional Practice Development

Summary of activities (2002-2004)

- Training sessions (lectures, workshops and workshop series)– total 155 (65 of these were fee-paying)
- Participants – total 3737
- Location of training:
 - Victoria (Bendigo, Melbourne, Swan Hill, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Mildura, Shepparton, Geelong, Colac, Ballarat)
 - Interstate (Adelaide, Alice Springs, Darwin, Rockhampton, Launceston)
 - International (Ireland, Denmark, Norway, UK, Mongolia, Sweden, Canada)
- Commissioning organizations eg.s:
 - hospitals
 - Centrelink
 - Education dept
 - TAFE
 - Universities
 - Smaller cty service organizations eg. Health centres, YSAS, Hanover
- Conferences organized – 3
- Publications:
 - 2 books
 - 5 book chapters
 - 8 articles

Where to now???

Ensuring sustainability.....

Consolidating and rationalising training programs

Broadening training base in Bendigo and region

Establishing formal awards (Grad. Cert and Grad. Dip.)

Consolidating ongoing funding

Furthering research as basis for training

Furthering international links