

# **Transforming a Clinical Nurse Consultant Position in Youth Cancer Care into a Nurse Practitioner Role to Enhance Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Care**

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## **Background:**

Adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer patients have unique medical and psychosocial needs requiring specialised care. The traditional clinical nurse consultant (CNC) role, while valuable, often lacks the necessary scope of practice to fully meet these demands. Transitioning this role to a nurse practitioner (NP) position offered a broader scope of practice and more innovative approaches to patient management to enhance care continuity and patient outcomes.

## **Approach:**

This initiative involved reconfiguring an existing CNC position within a youth cancer care program into an NP role through completion of a Masters of Nurse Practitioner academic qualification. The NP's expanded scope includes autonomous patient assessments, diagnostic capability, prescribing medications, and implementing advanced care plans. The transformation aimed to provide continuity of care, streamline outpatient care, reduce unnecessary hospital visits, decrease acute care burden, and enhance the nurses' ability to influence and guide youth health practices.

## **Outcome:**

Preliminary evaluation of the role transformation indicates positive outcomes. The NP's ability to manage patient care holistically has led to a reduction in unplanned hospital visits, and enhanced continuity of care. Additionally, the NP role has allowed for greater involvement in interdisciplinary teams to influence policy making and strengthen the overall quality of youth cancer care practices.

## **Innovation and Significance:**

This transformation highlights the innovative potential of expanding the CNC role to an NP position within youth cancer care. By leveraging the broader scope of practice and advanced clinical skills of NPs, healthcare systems can improve patient outcomes, enhance care continuity, and optimise resource utilisation. The role's ongoing evaluation will provide further insights into its impact and inform future adaptations in similar healthcare settings.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**