

The Importance of Youth Led Education in Medical Teaching

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Background/Purpose:

This presentation will highlight the key benefits of youth-led education for current and future medical professionals, focusing on three Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN) Youth Council led initiatives: USYD Teaching Days for second year medical students, an Emergency Triage Training Kit, and a youth-led presentation to SCHN department heads. The SCHN Youth Council recruits individuals 16-24 who wish to make a positive impact within their services.

USyd teaching day results were delivered at the 2024 YHC, however, we aim to provide an adolescent perspective on the impact of youth-led education. The presentation will showcase how youth voices can guide and refine adolescent medical education, offering lived experiences and strengths that are often missing.

Approach:

Each initiative was co-designed with young people, reflecting meaningful models of medical education training based on consumers lived experience, priorities, and needs. The presentation will outline principles of youth engagement and practical approaches to involve young people in a meaningful way that is safe and impactful.

Outcomes/Impact:

Through these events, young people have been able to share their experiences and feel they are positively shaping the trajectory of the healthcare system to benefit future generations. Feedback from both young people and medical professionals have been overwhelmingly positive, with medical professionals particularly appreciating young people being part of the teaching team. Grace McGowan's speech "made a room full of doctors pause and reflect on the importance of communication and connection with young people", according to the Medical Director.

Innovation and Significance:

Youth-led approaches to medical education and clinical training remain uncommon across academic and healthcare environments. There is a lack of youth-led education for medical professionals, making our programs uniquely beneficial. Clinicians enjoyed hearing directly from youth about their experiences and were encouraged to consider

changes to future practice and reflect on how to better engage with adolescents regarding their health.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: N/A