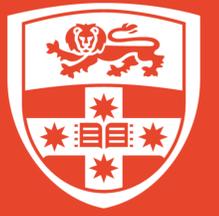


Attitudes & Readiness

impact of a substance care curriculum



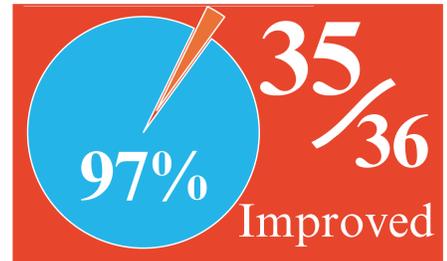
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- Readiness for safer care involves confidence & appropriate attitudes
- Simulation-based substance-related care education produces measurable psychosocial transformation alongside clinical competency development
- Pre-post scale measured attitude & confidence changes, qualitative responses informed views & transformation mechanisms



R-H Stigma Scale

(Adapted from Brown, 2022)

Attitudes towards substance use
Confidence in skill & knowledge

- 6-point Likert
- We expanded scale & replicated validation
- See our full scale & original



+0.95
z=5.16, p<0.001
Confidence scores

+0.63
z=5.15, p<0.001
Attitude scores

- Confidence improved more: simulations built self-efficacy, perspectives harder to measure
- Baseline predicted gains: lower initial readiness students improved most

Language: Dual Role

"Before the training, I was not aware of my own biases in the language I used... This has definitely changed."

- Even progressive students discovered unconscious biases through word choice analysis: **language change both caused & marked genuine transformation**

"Even though there are very complicated cases... [complexity] is sometimes just because of the prejudice we already have... We overcomplicate it ourselves"

Prejudice-Complexity

- Bias & prejudice created false complexity from student inexperience & social distance
- **Examining that bias** freed cognitive resources, complex clinical content felt more manageable

"Very much expanded my perception... it is a pretty much taboo topic where I'm from"

Person Level Factors

- Students had **different starting points**
- Flexibility & open discourse essential

"I wish there were more strategies to fight bias as it does not work like "ok, since today I stop judging"... particularly if you personally know someone with that kind of problem ... I cannot say I stopped judging but at least now I try ..."

- **Explicit language work**
- **Case-based simulations + "low stakes" debrief**
- **Multiple modalities:** didactic, practical skills, simulation, peer discussion, resources
- **Credibility & authenticity:** proved relevance

Why it Worked

- Personal connection to substance use created **barriers** in some students, despite insight
- Honest struggle informs typology & development of future stigma interventions
- **Solution + Future:** enhance lived experience integration, examine certainty of perspectives