

The strength of a collaborative to design a professional development course in youth healthcare for Queensland – A co-design approach.

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Background:

In 2020, a Queensland Health Clinical Senate meeting to discuss how to improve adolescent and young adult (AYA) healthcare in Queensland amid growing concerns that it was not meeting national and international benchmarks. A key recommendation included the need to improve healthcare professional (HCP) education and confidence in working with young people (1).

Following this, in 2022, the Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network (QCYCN) was tasked with developing a statewide strategy to optimise AYA healthcare. As part of a state-wide survey to explore the experience and recommendations of consumers and HCPS, professionals further reported a lack of education and confidence in caring for young people across healthcare settings. (2, 3).

Approach:

In 2022, QCYCN began work with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) School of Nursing and the Professional and Executive Education team (QUTeX), to develop an online, self-paced, postgraduate level, multidisciplinary foundational course in AYA healthcare. The objective was to provide HCPs with an accessible pathway to upskill. This work was led by a multidisciplinary and consumer steering committee.

Outcome:

The [QUT Foundations of Adolescent and Young Adult \(AYA\) Health Care](#) course was launched in 2024 and includes four modules to engage professionals in learning, delivered through multimedia content and interaction, reflective activities and assessments that align with learning outcomes over three months. Pre, post and sustainability surveys, as guided by Kirkpatrick's four level evaluation are being used to evaluate participants' knowledge, confidence and practice change (4). Preliminary results from the first tranche of study participants will be presented here.

Innovation and Significance:

This HCP education pathway is a novel example of innovative, collaborative multidisciplinary education which has long been need for HCPs working across sectors in Australia, to improve AYA healthcare and outcomes.

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2. Network QCaYC. Health Care Professionals Information and Resrouce Survey Outcomes. QCYCN AYA Innovation Hub: Clinical Excellence Queensland 2022.
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