**Casting a Wide Net ~ Interdisciplinary Diabetes Education for Health Professionals**

**Background & Aim**

Diabetes management is a complex and evolving field requiring ongoing health professional education across nursing and allied health disciplines. The Newcastle Community Diabetes Service within Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) initiated district-wide staff development to enhance diabetes knowledge and clinical skills. These triannual meetings provide accessible, interdisciplinary education, utilising MS Teams platforms.

Program objectives:

* Provide high-quality diabetes education to healthcare professionals caring for patients with diabetes across HNELHD, including ward-based staff and outreach teams
* Foster interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing
* Facilitate improved diabetes care outcomes through evidence-based practice and continuous professional development.

**Methods**

Expert speakers cover a range of diabetes-related topics. Participants from community, hospitals, and outreach sites can participate face-to-face or online and engage in interactive discussions and case-based learning relevant to their roles, with links provided to associated resources. Feedback from evaluation surveys is utilised to direct future sessions, aligning delivery style and content with identified educational needs.​

**Results**

Sessions have been attended by healthcare professionals across various disciplines – 70 overall attendances in 2024, and 27 participants (12 online, 15 in-person) in March 2025. The program has received consistently positive feedback, with attendees reporting increased confidence in managing diabetes-related issues. “Relatable to my practice more so than case studies/research talks.” Presentations on insulin updates, new diabetes management technology, and complex social issues were rated highly for relevance and quality. Networking opportunities were valued and all attendees expressed interest in future events, reinforcing the program’s role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to improve diabetes care across the district.

**Discussion/Conclusion**

The district-wide staff development meetings have been an effective model for expanding diabetes education across HNELHD. Ongoing review and refinement based on participant feedback ensures the program remains responsive to the evolving needs of healthcare professionals, contributing to improved diabetes care in the wider community.