

BioScience Essentials 2BRN: a web-based resource for Enrolled Nurses transitioning in Bachelor of Nursing registration programs.

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Background

Enrolled Nurses (EN) seeking to upgrade their qualification to degree-qualified Registered Nurses (RN) are typically enrolled directly into advanced science subjects including pathophysiology and pharmacology, with the assumption that these students have undertaken the requisite foundational content as part of their Vocational Education and Training diploma. However, many of these students have experienced an education gap after completing their program and/or because of working in specialist units such as mental health. The BioScience Essentials 2BRN website (<http://www.bioscienceessentials2brn.com/>) consists of modules designed to revise basic bioscience content including cell biology, the anatomy and physiology of each organ system, as well as introductory modules on pathophysiology and pharmacology. This poster reports on the completion of the site and the initial responses from student users.

Aim and Methods

The aim of the project was to create an evidence-based, open access web resource whereby BN students could assess the adequacy of prior learning in the foundational sciences and, where, once they identified gaps in their knowledge, they could find learning modules to “fill” these gaps.

The team (consisting of science educators drawn from nursing, health and science faculties of four Australian institutions and a web designer) collaboratively produced the components for each module that were a checklist of key concepts, a self-assessment quiz the actual content module and a revision quiz.

Results

Construction of the site was completed in 2017 and it has been promoted to Charles Sturt University students enrolled in Pathophysiology and Pharmacology 1. At this early stage, there has been no formal evaluation. Emailed comments from students were positive in which the site was described as helpful

Conclusion

This collaboration between institutes has produced a resource that is now freely available to any students at any institutions. This year the site will be promoted to another EN cohort at a metropolitan campus: the University of Technology Sydney. Academics from other institutions are encouraged to contact the team to examine the website and subsequently support its wider use.

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