

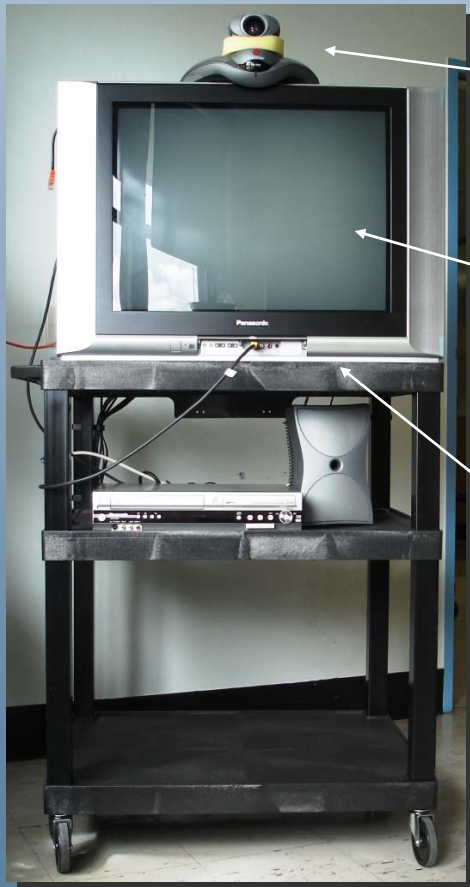


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Allied e-Health: Innovation for Services & Students

Lin Oke, Manager Occupational Therapy Department, Royal Children's Hospital





Polycom camera: remote control of direction & zoom; from either site

Television screen: both sites visible; switch small/large image

Mobile trolley – data points: in treatment, consulting & meeting rooms at clinical facilities; teaching rooms at universities



Health.e.kids & SWARH

RCH linked into private & secure broadband network of South West Alliance of Rural Health (SWARH)





High quality broadband networks



Health.e.learning & ARNET

Via Department of Paediatrics, Melbourne Uni, which is onsite, RCH gains access to AARNet - a broadband network operating between all Australian universities

RCH therapists videoconference with OT & PT students studying at Charles Sturt, Deakin, La Trobe, Melbourne and Monash universities.



Health-e-Kids project

Piloting the use of broadband video-consultations to supplement existing modes of communication in clinical practice to support:

- the clinical care of rural children and their families
- rural therapists and other health professionals working with children with complex conditions.

The William Buckland Foundation provided a grant in 2006

Project evaluation will be completed in December 2007



Health-e-Kids project



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Health-e-Kids project



Health.e.kids aims to enhance current paediatric practice in Victoria

Rural therapists:

- sole positions
- broad generic role
- clients all age ranges, wide variety of conditions
- miss benefits of professional information exchange
- complex paediatric conditions generally not common



Health-e-Kids project



Current professional information exchange between RCH therapists and rural therapists:

- telephone, written and e-mail liaison
- discharge planning, pre-planned admission preparation, ongoing review

Video-consultations add significantly to the quality of communication between therapists and family.



Health-e-Kids project



Progress:

- Commenced with the occupational therapy profession
- OTs in the South West regions of Victoria very keen to be involved
- Training in using the video-consulting equipment provided
- Requests/suggestions for e-consultations mainly from the rural OTs
- Extending project now to include physiotherapists, speech pathologists, other allied health professions as well as medical and nursing specialists.



Health-e-Kids project

Findings thus far...

Upside:

- reduction of families' travel time
- enhanced family focussed approach
- clinical support and education for rural therapists

Downside:

- ease of access for an e-consultation at busy rural facilities
- limited identification of rural children where an e-consultation would be suitable



Health-e-Learning project



An allied health clinical education innovation project funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services. This project is piloting the use of broadband videoconferences between RCH therapists and allied health students.

Aim to investigate:

- The capacity to provide clinical observation opportunities to students using an effective and more efficient training model;
- An alternative method of providing students with a comprehensive range of video-observation (e-obs) opportunities.

Aims to illustrate the suitability of e-obs/videoconferences for clinical observation opportunities in other sectors of e-health OT and PT and for other health professions in Victoria.



Health-e-Learning project



Videoconferencing Clinical Observations:

- Video recording of therapist and child made
- Information emails clinician & tutor: students prior reading; clinician's awareness of student knowledge
- At mutually convenient time videoconference occurs between therapist and student group and tutor
- Therapist introduces session: giving context to clinical session, pointers to students for features to observe
- Video is played to students. May be paused and an aspect discussed, maybe replayed to watch again after some discussion
- A document camera can be used to show students x-rays, photographs, splinting patterns etc
- This is a Mode 2 videoconference – clinician live to air with students
- Mode 3 is a recording of a Mode 2 and can be played to students without requiring availability of therapist

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Health-e-Learning project

13 OTs and **27** PTs at RCH have been trained in videoconference technique

48 families/children approached to participate, **32** agreed

42 Videoconference sessions broadcast in Semester 1, **25** in Mode 2 with a live discussion with the treating therapist, **17** in Mode 3

246 OT and **341** PT students have participated in at least one paediatric clinical observation opportunity in Semester 1 (compared to **21** OT and **53** PT students who attended RCH on placement in 2006)

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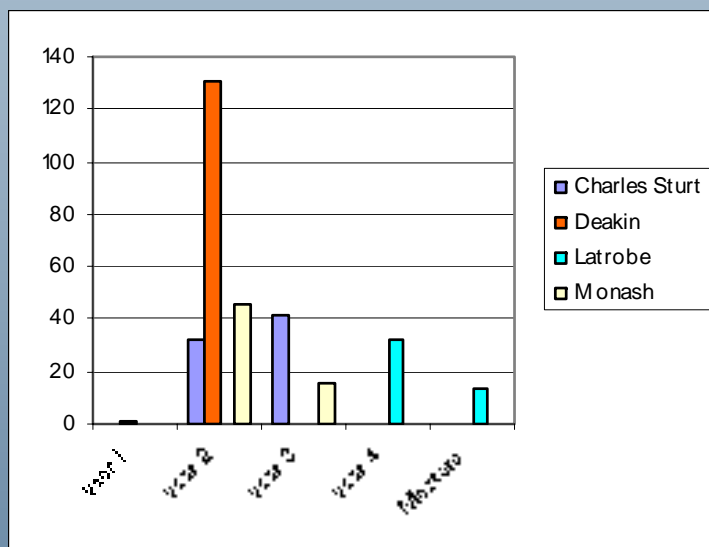
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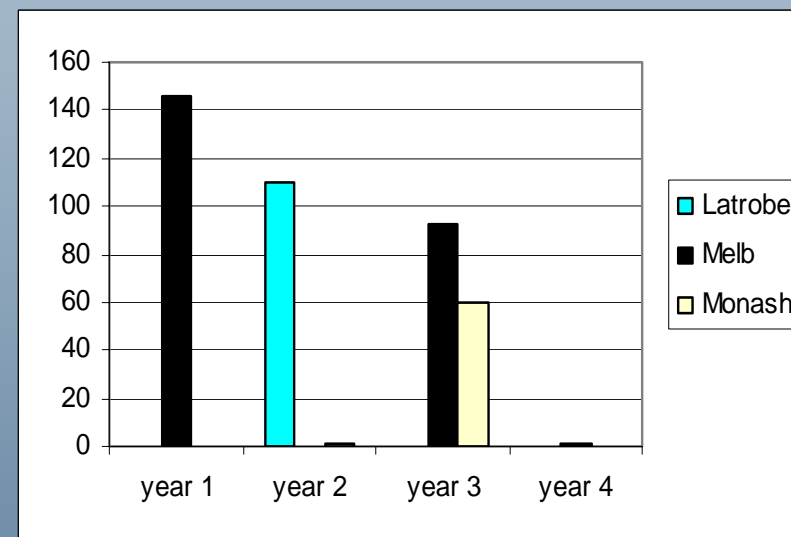
Health-e-Learning project



Results thus far:



OT Students by Year & University



PT Students by Year & University



Health-e-Learning project



Student Responses thus far:

	Agreed	Neutral	Disagreed
Videoconferencing is an effective way of learning.	89%	8%	2%
Videoconferencing is a good alternative to in-hospital placements.	42%	23%	34%
Liked videoconferencing as a means of learning from clinical observations.	78%	16%	6%



Health-e-Learning project

Tutor's comments

"Fantastic real life opportunity for student learning."

"It highlights the work clinicians do and as we see it too it enables us to reinforce the relationship between class work and practice."

"I have found this is an excellent way of reinforcing the principles we are trying to teach and integrating theory and practice."

Clinician's experiences

For many fear and trepidation!! – just like first time teaching

Significant time spent in preparation for the presentation
e-health and discussion with students

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Health-e-Learning project



Key Learnings to Date:

- Support for clinicians – so they can be focussed on clinical communication
- Administrative support, processes and tools – essential underpinning
- Logistics of fitting into university timetable/videoconference rooms
- Communication between all participants – ensures an effective session, enables improvement as we go
- Technical issues – how many could there be!



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Acknowledgements

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South West & RCH occupational therapists & their patients and families

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LIME: Heather Lawson; Angela Emslie

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Glenys French	La Trobe University OT
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Prue Morgan	Monash University PT
Megan Davidson	La Trobe University PT
Nora Shields	La Trobe University PT
Gillian Webb	University of Melbourne PT
Susan Rogers	University of Melbourne PT



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