**Abstract**

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| Abstract Title: | Evaluation of a Palliative Care educational programme |
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| Abstract: | Background There is a need to ensure that palliative care staff are optimally trained to support an increasing number of patients while still providing the best standard of care. As a consequence, a Fundamentals of Palliative Care programme was implemented at a local hospice site within the Auckland (New Zealand) region and aimed at non-specialist providers working in the residential aged care sector  Summary of work The evaluative project involved questionnaire and interview phases. In phase 1, a purposive sample of workshop participants were invited to fill in a confidential evaluation questionnaire (immediate and follow up). In phase 2, semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders.  Summary of results In response to the questionnaires, participants commented on the value of the educational programme with the majority of participants indicating that they had gained further knowledge in palliative patient management. According to the interview data (from three educators, one manager, and three registered nurses), the programme objectives were comprehensive but could use minor refinements depending on who was attending the workshops. The interview commentaries further suggested that the teaching was useful and encouraged the learning process; however, the learners were from diverse contexts and it was therefore difficult to suit all learning preferences. The assessment and evaluation processes used required further psychometric refinement.  Conclusions The piloting of this educational programme was of benefit and relevance to participants in their clinical practice. Overall all participants felt the course was useful to them and they were able to gain valuable knowledge and skills.  Take-home message Educational initiatives within the clinical setting need to be encouraged. National agencies are useful in driving such programmes but unique clinical contexts engender the need for fine tuning to enable optimal learning. |
| Keywords: | Hospice care  Palliative care  Programme development |