



Occupational Therapy and Palliative Care: A Deakin University Adventure

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Goals

1. Describe how core concepts of Palliative Care are integrated in the Occupational Therapy curriculum
 - Links between Occupational Therapy and Palliative Care



2. Describe the experience of introducing the PCC4U resources to 4th year students
 - How these resources are utilised in the curriculum to address the specificity and complexity of Palliative Care
 - Students' perspective and reflection on being prepared in the principles and practice of Palliative Care will be reported



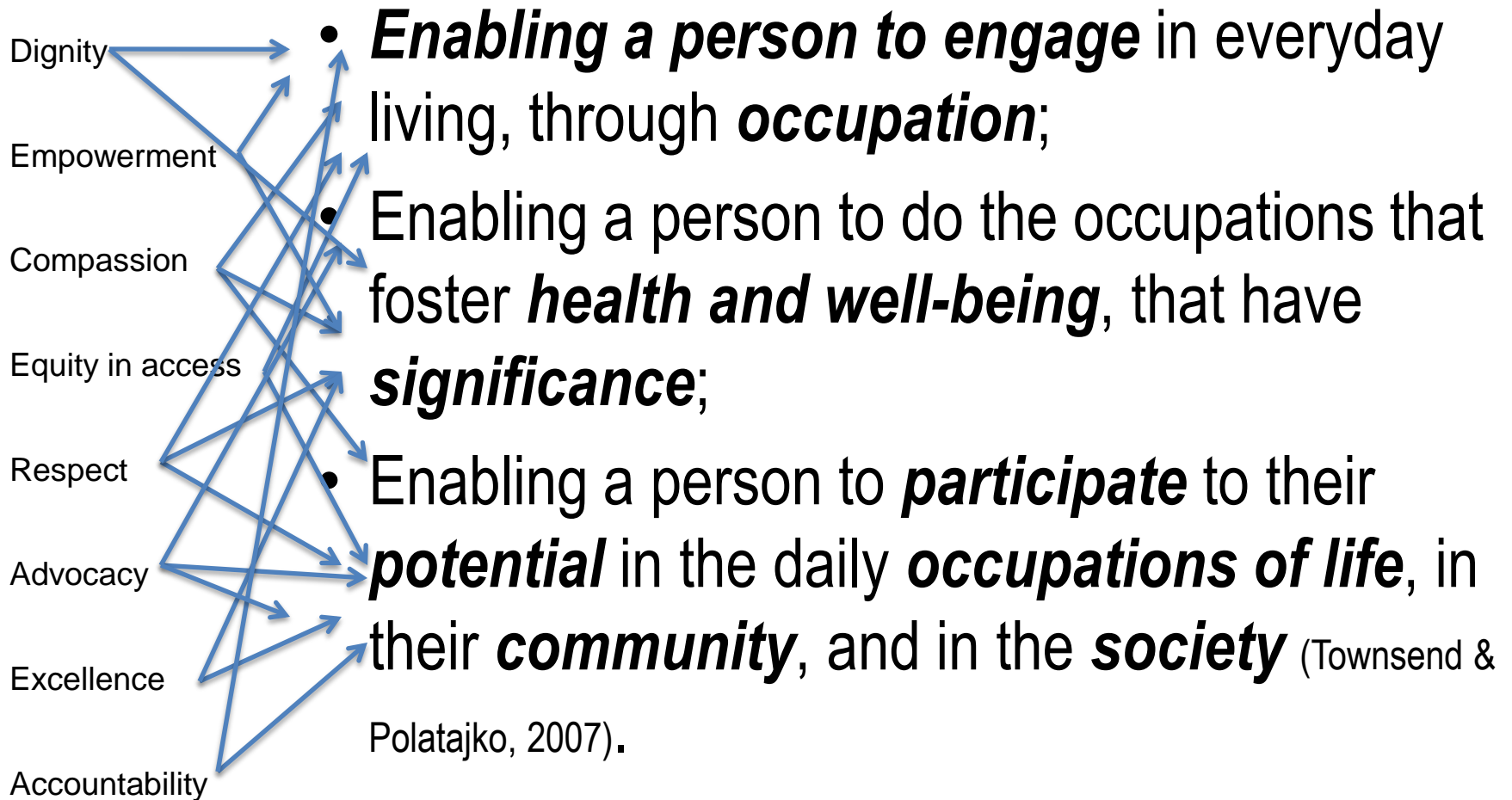
3. Future trends and actions to further the application of core values and principles of Palliative Care in an evolving context will be identified.



1. What are the links between Palliative Care and Occupational Therapy

- The ***dignity*** of the patient, their caregiver/s and family
- ***Empowerment*** of the patient, their caregiver/s and family
- ***Compassion*** towards the patient, their caregiver/s and family
- ***Equity in access*** to palliative care services a allocation of resources
- ***Respect*** for the patient, their caregiver/s and family
- ***Advocacy*** on behalf of the expressed wishes of patients, families and communities
- ***Excellence*** in the provision of care and support
- ***Accountability*** to patients, caregiver/s, families and the community

What is Occupational Therapy?

- 
- **Enabling a person to engage** in everyday living, through **occupation**;
 - Enabling a person to do the occupations that foster **health and well-being**, that have **significance**;
 - Enabling a person to **participate** to their **potential** in the daily **occupations of life**, in their **community**, and in the **society** (Townsend & Polatajko, 2007).

2. Introducing the PCC4U resources to 4th year students at Deakin University

- Complexity of Palliative Care
- Multilayered and multifaceted concept
 - Integration of learning
- Occupations: Enabling Action & Outcomes
 - Gaps in Learning: ‘popularity’, mixed emotions

- Palliative Care as an ‘emerging’ area for OT practice
- Evidence
 - Significant and meaningful occupation in end of life
 - Participation, empowerment
 - Roles and contribution
 - Identity
 - Environment

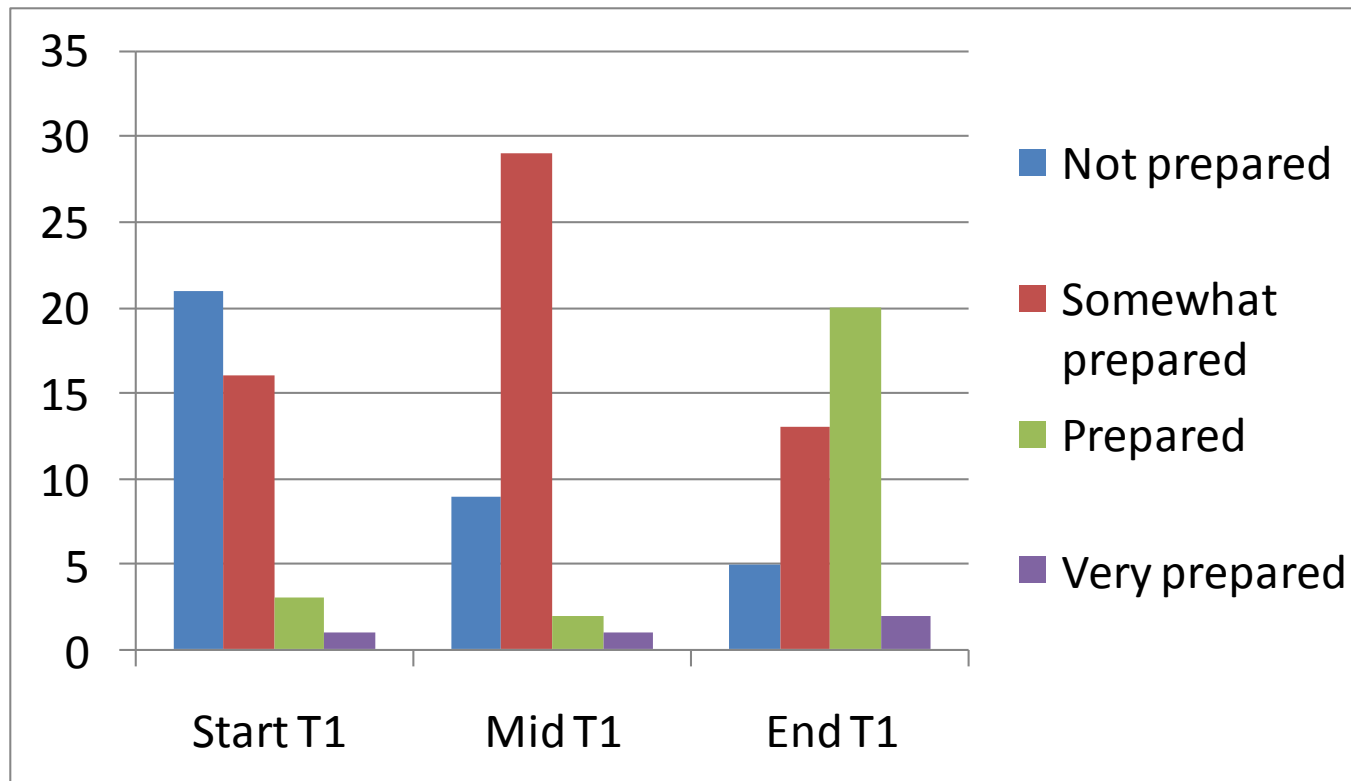
(Jacques & Hasselkus, 2004; Jeyasingam, Agar, Soares, Plummer, & Currow, 2008; Lyons, Orozovic, Davis & Newman, 2002; Prochnau, Liu & Boman, 2003; Thibeault, 1997; Warne, & Hoppes, 2009.)



- Discussed lived experiences
 - Professional and personal
- Explored similarities in core values and principles
 - Evidence
 - “What do we do?”
- Powerful personal stories (DVD) and Occupational Therapy practice

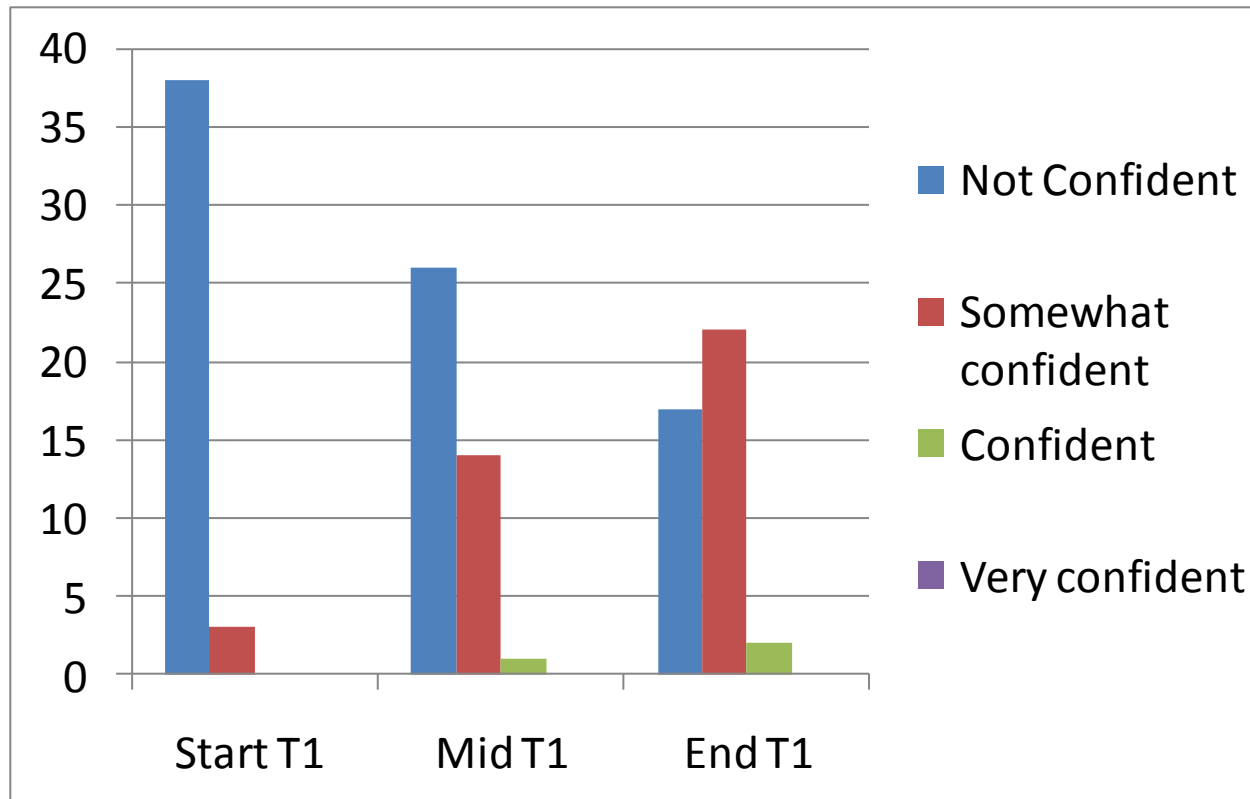
Students' reactions:

How prepared (skills/knowledge) are you?



Students' reactions:

How confident (emotions) are you?





Students' comments (Start T1)

- *It's frightening*
- *It must be so hard*
- *How do you deal with it all?*
- *I couldn't...*
- *What do you do?*

Decorative geometric shapes in various colors (green, yellow, blue, red, grey) arranged in a cluster on the left side of the slide.


Students' comments (End T1)

- *Talking about it first and getting my head around it helped.*
- *The evidence surprised me, I can see my role better now*
- *This is such a complex and interesting topic. The lectures on palliative care really hit home and made sense.*
- *I know what to do as an OT, it's the how and maintain professionalism (no sobbing) that will need work*
- *The content is very interactive. The individual stories were so 'real', they represented all age groups.*
- *The step by step organisation of the stories didn't give all at once and made me think.*
- *It's all there! I know where to look.*



3. Further the application of core values and principles of Palliative Care in the Occupational Therapy curriculum

- Core values of Palliative Care in the curriculum
 - Which, When and How
 - Build up the complexity throughout the year level

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- Decorative geometric shapes in the top left corner, including overlapping squares and circles in various colors like green, blue, red, and yellow.
- Links between Occupational Therapy and Palliative Care
 - Mapping
 - Complexity, 4th year, Masters
 - Research
 - Preparation
 - Transfer
 - Follow up



In conclusion

The Deakin Adventure has been positive and powerful. It will develop, grow, and gain strength. It will lead to knowledgeable and compassionate occupational therapists working in palliative care.

Thanks!

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