

My Learning: Online Educational Insights

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Introduction

Online learning is increasingly being used to deliver ongoing education and CPD to health professionals with well-understood benefits including accessibility, efficacy, cost effectiveness, learner flexibility and interactivity. Active education can increase knowledge, support attitude change, and improve practice outcomes [1-3]. This study reports on the contribution of the My Learning palliative care modules [4].

The My Learning topics were as follows:

- 1: Finding Evidence (Published Literature)
- 2: Finding Evidence (Searching for Evidence)
- 3: Searching the Web
- 4: Residential Aged Care
- 5: Dementia
- 6: Carers
- 7: Knowledge Translation
- 8: Disseminating Research Findings

Methods

Two sets of questions were embedded within a set of “using evidence in practice” modules and collected during 2017. Both online survey forms were optional, simple to collect, and brief.

The first related to a systematic collection of basic sociodemographic materials to be able to report on users of the product before they started a module.

The second set was collected at the completion of the module and captured basic indicators of value such as likelihood of doing another as well as capturing data about whether the user intended to do anything as a result of the module.

Discussion with the Chairs of the Social and Behavioural Ethics Committee, Flinders University a priori determined ethics approval was not required as the research fits the exempt category involving the collection and use of non-identifiable data.

Findings

Post-module evaluation revealed overall high levels of satisfaction and benefit. Learners reported that the modules were easy to use, that the information presented would be used in their practice and that they would recommend the modules to a colleague.

Post-module Satisfaction Evaluation (All Modules Combined)			
	Total number	Yes (n)	Yes (%)
I found this module easy to use	359	354	99%
I am likely to use information from this module in my practice	299	274	92%
I would recommend this My Learning module to a colleague	358	331	93%
I will undertake another My Learning module	261	250	96%
I will visit CareSearch in the next 3 months	299	278	93%

Conclusion

These results show that the My Learning modules are user-friendly, and contain information which could inform practice.

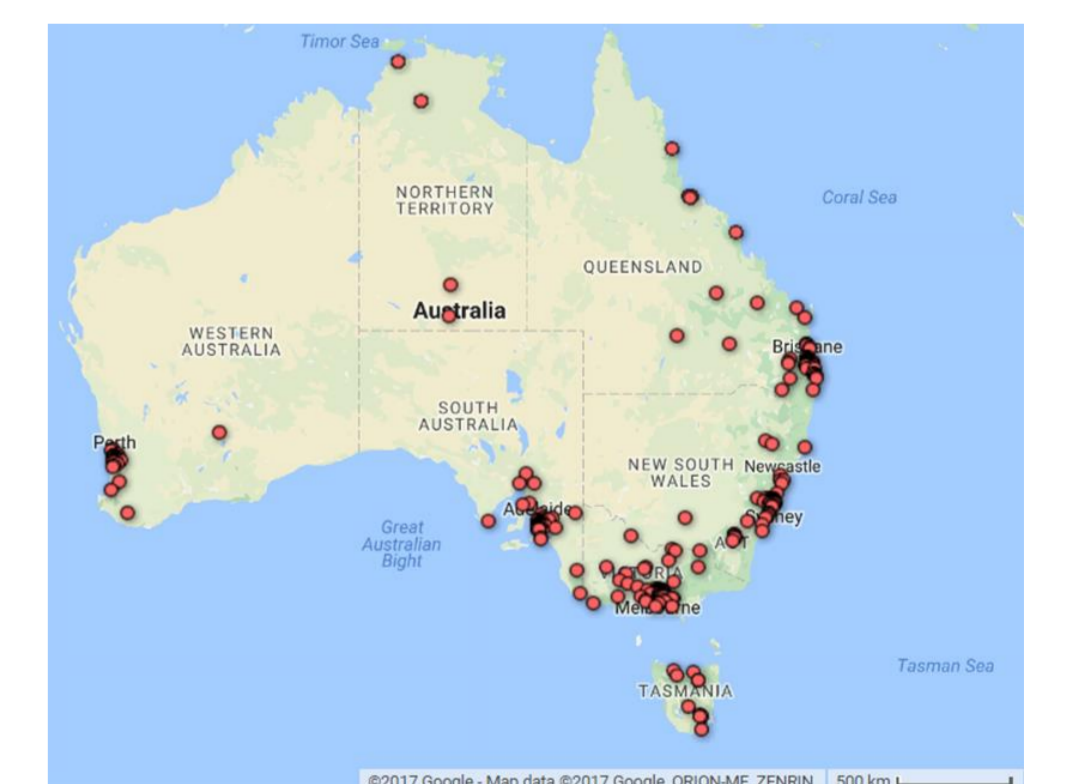
Data Summary

My Learning Module Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n = 1852 • From 1 April 2016 to 4 January 2017
Evaluation Responders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n = 1137 • Evaluation response rate: 61% • Evaluation completion rate: 57% (n = 1054)
Completion of Pre-Module Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n = 1043 • Pre-module evaluation completion rate: 92%
Completion of Post-Module Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n = 366 • Post-module evaluation completion rate: 32%

Distribution of My Learning Users

98% of respondents lived in Australia. The majority of learners were middle-aged, female nurses. Outside of nursing professionals (65%), learners described themselves as aged care workers (8%), allied health professionals (6%) and doctors (4%), or identified as other (16%).

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. My Learning users came from across all SEIFA groups. Postcode analysis showed users came from all states and territories and from rural and metropolitan areas.



References:

1. Green JK, Huntington AD. 2017. Online professional development for digitally differentiated nurses: An action research perspective. *Nurse Education in Practice*. 22 (55) e62.
2. Sinclair PM, Kable A, et al 2016. The effectiveness of Internet-based e-learning on clinician behaviour and patient outcomes: A systematic review. *Int J Nurs Stud*. 57:70–81.
3. Williams BW, Kessler HA. 2014. Williams MV Relationship among practice change, motivation, and self-efficacy. *J Contin Educ Health Prof*. 34 Suppl 1:S5-10.
4. Tieman J. Ensuring quality in online palliative care resources. *Cancers*. 2016 Dec 13;8(12):113

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