Policy Snapshot: Clinical Supervisor Support Program

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The 2008 National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform included a specific element to expand capacity and competence of clinical training supervision. In July 2010, Health Workforce Australian (HWA) released a discussion paper "Clinical Supervisor Support Program" (CSSP) about the future of clinical supervision in Australia across professions and the education continuum. The paper sought feedback on ten specific policy reform proposals and related questions. Further information about this process can be found here. Feedback from stakeholders was requested and Sydney University submitted a co-ordinated response including individual responses from all seven of its faculties and schools which provide courses leading to registration in health professions covered by the CSSP. Together, the University of Sydney’s schools of Medicine and Nursing and our faculties of Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Health Sciences and Education & Social Work contribute approximately 30% of NSW’s health workforce graduates annually across most health professions. The University as a whole strongly supports HWA’s plans to raise the quality, quantity and prominence of clinical supervision in Australia. The University’s submission and individual faculty and school submissions raised many issues relevant to the development and implementation of the reforms proposed by HWA. Key among these was the need to achieve recognition of supervision in the workloads of health professionals as a matter of priority. The University’s submissions and summary documents outlining each faculty or school’s individual response can be found here.

Over 2010 the ITL has hosted discussions with the A/Deans (L&T) in the Health faculties to support the development of a more coherent institutional approach to support and development for Clinical Supervisors. The Health Workforce Australia paper provides a blueprint for future work in this area.