

Taking Action Together for Asthma (TATA) - an interprofessional learning module focusing on asthma within the Faculties of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy

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AIM

This project, funded under the University's Teaching Improvement and Equipment Scheme, aimed to implement and evaluate a new Inter-Professional Learning (IPL) module focused on asthma (named TATA -Taking Action Together for Asthma) that was embedded in existing units of study during Semester 2, 2008 within the Faculties of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, and Pharmacy. This project aims to combine the need for conducting interprofessional education and exposing future health professionals to their health promotion roles.

METHOD

The project team constructed 1) a 3 day program that was aligned with the learning objectives of the courses students were enrolled in their own Faculty's, and 2) assignments that fitted the overall load expectations for each course and activities that were relevant to all professions/subjects.

OUTCOMES

Twenty six students enrolled in different subjects in the three Faculties volunteered to undertake the TATA module. On the first day of the TATA module, students undertook activities relating to group/team work, understanding the roles and perspectives of each profession in the management of asthma, and within interprofessional groups designed activities to engage the community in improving asthma management practices. Over the course of the next 2 days, participating university students were first trained to become educators for an evidence-based peer-led asthma health promotion program for high school students, known as the Triple A (Adolescent Asthma Action) and then delivered the program in four NSW schools.

The TATA module is currently undergoing evaluation using a pre-test post-test design. Students have however, already informally offered very positive feedback about the overall TATA experience. Feedback about the progress of the TATA activities was also provided by observers (IPL Unit, Faculties of Health), and was very encouraging.