The Valuing Lived Experience Project: Transforming Teaching and Learning in Health Sciences

Presenters:

Dr Robyn Martin, Senior Lecturer, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work
Ms Lyn Mahboub, Clinical/Professional Fellow, Department of Social Work
Miss Sophie Ridley, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work
Dr Kate Dorozenko, Research Associate, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work
Dr Ben Milbourn, Lecturer, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work
Mrs Annalise O’Callaghan, Clinical/Professional Fellow, School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work

Abstract:

Education delivered by health consumers or service users, known as learning from lived experience, is widely acknowledged as good practice in the education of budding professionals. Research has demonstrated a positive impact on student attitudes, knowledge and skills when they learn in this way, and innovative approaches to engaging people with lived experience (PLE) are gaining momentum.

In this presentation, we showcase the Valuing Lived Experience Project (VLEP), an Australian-first initiative that seeks to systematically embed lived experience in the School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work. The VLEP is currently designing and implementing an array of innovative activities to strengthen the capacity of PLE of mental health recovery and academics within the School. One such activity is the delivery of a short course that will upskill PLE to become educators within the tertiary setting, enabling deeper involvement in teaching including the delivery of lectures, curriculum development, assessment marking and more. Parallel to this will be the capacity strengthening of academics to support their ability to privilege and centre lived experience in their teaching and research activities. Once established and evaluated, the VLEP can be extended into other schools within Health Sciences, enabling other disciplines to champion lived experience education.