

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY DELIVERED IN THE TERRITORY

ASA and FNA Conference

Brisbane 2022

Presented by Paul Bell

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SESSION 7 | Plaza P10 & P11

Charles Darwin University acknowledges all First Nations people across the lands on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Why Aeromedical Retrieval Post Graduate Studies?

- NT is an extreme example of the geography of Australia that demonstrates how aeromedical retrieval is a critical element in our health services
- Postgraduate specialisation in this unique health setting and its challenges is important to ensure we get the best health outcomes going forward
- Postgraduate aeromedical retrieval qualifications are not currently an industry standard
- Given the complexities of the aeromedical retrieval role for health professionals maybe consideration should be given to make post graduate studies an industry standard

Scope of the Presentation

- How it started
- Finding a pathway through academia for the uninitiated
- Forming strategic partnerships, leadership and bringing a team together
- What's in a name: The CDU Menzies School of Medicine
- The long-term benefits of post graduate education for Territorian to be delivered by Territorians
- Into the future – CDU/NCCTRC
- The long game – Indo-Pacific “Soft Diplomacy”

How it started

- Exploring the option of a partnership between Army 1ST Brigade and CDU with regards Human Performance
- Contacted CDU College of Nursing and Midwifery
- Whilst there asked about potential for PhD in Aeromedical Retrieval
- CDU CoNM supportive of this and asked to meet
- Planets aligned...
 - CoNM Dean had a scheduled meeting with NCCTRC
 - Idea of Aeromedical Retrieval Course proposed
 - PROF Len Notaras AO very supportive and suggested a CDU/NCCTRC partnership
 - Aeromedical Retrieval first then Disaster Management...

Finding a pathway through academia for the uninitiated

- PROF Dianne Stephens OAM (NCCTRC) and Paul Bell (Army) tasked with establishing Post Graduate Course Aeromedical Course – Aug 2019
- PROF Catherine Turner, Dean CDU CoNM, very supportive and recognised our limited understanding of the academic world
- CoNM Executive Team very supportive guiding us through the governance requirements of establishing the course
- CoNM Dean recognised us as the SMEs and thus able to give us our “lead”
- This was essential as it gave us a certain level of Freedom of Action to establish the course

Forming strategic partnerships, leadership and bringing a team together

- Where to start - uniqueness
- The importance of networks and just reaching out
- Keeping the messaging clear, concise and simple
- Approached GM of NT CareFlight, Phillip Roberts, initially to discuss proposal – academic pathway for logisticians
- Approached EGM RFDS of Medical and Retrieval Services SA/NT, Dr Mardi Steere, to discuss proposal
- Transparency, listening and openness was key
- Small Working Group to establish curriculum – representative
- First CAG held Nov 19

Forming strategic partnerships, leadership and bringing a team together

- Curriculum developed through 2020
- COVID-19
- CAGs via TEAMS
- Lot's of emails back and forth...
- Clear, concise, open, flexible and to the point
- Instructor network developed form key stakeholders



The Team

- Paul Bell – Army/CDU
- PROF Dr Dianne Stephens - NCCTRC
- A/PROF Dr Mardi Steere – RFDS SA/NT
- A/PROF Sass Hayes - Retrieval QLD
- A/PROF Dr John Roe – NT CareFlight
- A/PROF Dr Peter Archer - AVR
- A/PROF Florian Pracher – NT Careflight
- A/PROF John Craven – MedSTAR Kids
- A/SL Christine Wilson – RFDS SA/NT
- A/SL Jodie Martin – NT CareFlight
- Fundamentals (GC)
- Domestic and International Logistics (GC)
- Adult and Obstetric Retrievals (M) (GC-SE)
- Paediatric and Neonatal Retrievals (M)
- Humans at Extremes (M)
- Special electives through CDU Menzies Public Health and Indigenous College



The Team in Action. Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive – Darwin 2022



What's in a name: The CDU Menzies School of Medicine

- Aeromedical Retrieval GC and Master delivered S1 2021
- Student background included
 - RNs
 - FNs
 - MOs – DFAT funded – PNG, Fiji, Tonga
- For the long term survival of the course:
 - Needed to get medicine onto the graduating parchment
 - Robust discussions and ideas
- CDU Menzies School of Medicine established – foundation Dean PROF Dianne Stephens OAM

The long-term benefits of post graduate education for Territorian to be delivered by Territorians

- Research demonstrates that education location plays a pivotal part in retention of the student in that location
- Grow a local fit-for-purpose and more sustainable health workforce
- Better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so they can successfully complete their health training
- This is applicable for the CDU Menzies School of Medicine

Into the future – CDU/NCCTRC

- Aug 19 meeting between myself, Dean CoNM and PROF Len Notaras AO we all spoke passionately about 'education for Territorian's delivered by Territorian's and delivered in the Top End
- PROF Len Notaras AO, PROF Dianne Stephens OAM and myself were all intricately involved during Bali Bombing 1 and 2 and other events
- I was amazed that the NCCTRC was not involved in any HE Disaster Management post graduate studies
- Thus the decision to create a GC and Masters course contextualising all that the NCCTRC and AUSMAT do...

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (HEPR)

- Unique opportunity to explore and develop knowledge of the health aspects of preparedness and response to health emergencies including
 - natural disasters
 - human made disasters
 - communicable diseases
- Unique focus on the health response element of emergency management including the fundamentals of health preparedness, health coordination and health response from an operational and clinical perspective across the three-health emergency pillars
- Delivered by experts from the health emergency workforce within Australia in partnership with Charles Darwin University and the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre
- Provides advanced level of knowledge for health professionals to lead within their organisation in the field of preparing and responding to the next health emergency event locally, nationally, and internationally

Undergraduate Medicine - A long term strategic vision

- Western Sydney University, CDU and Menzies partner to establish the Northern Territory's own medical school
- Prepare doctors who are equipped to work in the NT's unique environment - they will be able to go bush and work autonomously with minimum supervision but also able to work in urban environments in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Attract more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students into an NT medical program which has admission procedures that address the educational disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal students
- Put in place a curriculum which directly addresses issues of training culturally competent health professionals so they can deliver high quality healthcare in the NT cross-cultural context



CDU Vice-Chancellor Professor Scott Bowman AO, Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Barney Glover AO and Menzies School of Health Research Director Professor Alan Cass AO sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the CDU Menzies School of Medicine.

The long game – Indo-Pacific “Soft Diplomacy”



- Ensure that identified hospitals have the capacity to function effectively in times of emergency and disaster
- Ensure that aeromedical retrieval, pre-hospital, trauma and critical care (where relevant) capacity is adequate
- Identify and train key local personnel to act as leaders, coordinators, and liaison officers in times of crisis
- Maintain a collaborative approach that builds capacity locally along with identifying local personnel to act as leaders, coordinators and liaison officers in times of crisis, further supporting increased local resilience during times of response

END

QUESTIONS