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Safety Innovations in Practice Program

Q. What is the Safety Innovations in Practice Program?

- A.** The Safety Innovations in Practice (SIIP) program was developed by the Council and aims to encourage health care professionals to develop innovative and practical projects that will deliver demonstrated improvements in patient safety within their health care setting.

The program is now in its third phase, with two rounds of projects having been funded by the Council already.

Q. How does the Council support this program?

- A.** The Council provides one-off funding grants for a limited number of projects throughout Australia that effect system improvements to enhance the safety of patient care.

Q. Why is the Council investing in this program?

- A.** Consultation with health care professionals has identified the need for targeted support at the local level for initiatives to improve health care safety and to reduce risks that patients will be unintentionally harmed by their health care treatment.

The development, implementation, and evaluation of projects at a grassroots level ensures a 'hands-on' approach to patient safety, and encourages the exploration of 'good ideas' that could be implemented in other health care organisations.

Q. How can other health care professionals learn about these innovative ideas?

- A.** To promote the uptake of good ideas to all Australian health care organisations, the Council has compiled the final reports of projects funded under this program for dissemination.

Reports from SIIP projects are available on the Council's website at www.safetyandquality.org

Q. What sorts of innovative ideas have been funded?

- A.** Previous projects that have been funded include the development of a dedicated diabetes review in a Darwin hospital to support junior medical officers. In this project, a system for nurse-initiated referral of patients with diabetes to a dedicated Diabetes Team provided support for junior doctors and increased their confidence in managing diabetes in hospital. The protocols developed in this project will be implemented in other hospitals in the Northern Territory, and possibly Australia-wide, once they have been reviewed following feedback.

Another example is the hospital-wide deployment of a web-based interactive opioid training package in a Tasmanian hospital. Opiate medications are one of the main forms of acute and chronic pain therapy and are widely used in Australian community and hospital settings. The provision of a flexible, interactive educational resource enabled health care professionals to access this important information. Initial results highlighted an enthusiastic uptake of the on-line format, and a reduction in medication incidents involving opioids.

Q. How can I find out more about the Safety in Innovations Practice Program?

A. More information on the SIIP program and the work of the Council can be obtained by visiting the Council's website at www.safetyandquality.org, or by contacting the:

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