

Workshop 12: Enhancing employability: How to get yourself on track for the career that you want

Presenters

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Overview

This workshop is targeted to emerging dietitians who are preparing to enter, or are new to the work force, and those who are considering their career options. It will draw on the current literature around employability and provide insight into the field of nutrition and dietetics. Participants will leave with key strategies to help them enhance their own employability and develop confidence in their long-term career development.

Learning outcomes

As a result of attending this workshop participants will be able to: 1. Define employability and how it relates to the new graduate dietetics workforce 2. Develop an increased understanding of the latest literature surrounding employability 3. Develop an increased understanding of the latest literature surrounding employment outcomes of the new graduate dietetics workforce 4. Identify five key strategies they can undertake to enhance their own employability

Target audience

This workshop is targeted to emerging dietitians who want to enhance their employability (ability to gain employment and be successful in the workplace).

Workshop abstract

Background / rationale: Employability for the new graduate dietetics workforce is an ongoing concern in Australia. With increasing numbers of graduates competing for limited jobs in traditional settings (such as hospital roles) some graduates report difficulty finding employment. It is important that graduates are aware of the skills and resources that they currently possess, and can further develop, to assist them in being successful in the labour market. **Content overview:** This workshop is targeted to emerging dietitians who want to enhance their employability. Content will include the presenters recent research projects evaluating employment outcomes and employability experiences of nutrition and dietetics graduates, and this will be presented in the context of current employability theory.

Evidence base: The content will draw on published evidence including a systematic review of the trends, challenges, opportunities and future needs of the global dietetic workforce. Results from two recent dietetic graduate outcomes surveys will also be addressed.

Qualitative research, both published and in progress, will be presented exploring the experiences of nutrition and dietetics graduates with regards to employment and employability. All information will be tied together using graduate capital theory. **Strategies to be used for audience engagement:** In addition to facilitator presentations, participants will engage with each other in small group discussions. They will also be encouraged to specify five key strategies to help them enhance their own employability. A panel of experts will be present for a Q&A session.