Experience and outcomes from state-wide, simulation based, post-graduate education programs for intensive care, cardiorespiratory and orthopaedic physiotherapy.

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Queensland Health has provided simulation based intensive care, cardiorespiratory and orthopaedic courses for Physiotherapists. The courses have been designed to enhance communication, assessment and clinical skills that are utilised within these caseloads. Participants complete a range of skills stations and realistic scenarios in a simulated hospital ward or intensive care setting. Scenarios utilise standardised and/or simulated patients. Course outcomes were evaluated via participant evaluation forms completed during the course, post-course interviews with participants and feedback from supervisors. Results from evaluation forms indicate that participant's perceive a significant improvement in a range of clinical skills ($p < 0.001$) in addition to improving their knowledge, competence / ability and confidence to work within intensive care, cardiorespiratory and orthopaedic caseloads. For example, from the intensive care course, areas of particular benefit have included understanding of monitoring and equipment (including mechanical ventilation and haemodynamic monitoring), clinical reasoning skills, BiPAP and adverse event management. The majority of participants (85%) indicated the gain in knowledge and skills from the courses would result in a change to their clinical practice. Post-course follow-up interviews confirmed this, with both participants and supervisors reporting improvements in participant's assessment, clinical reasoning and skills application and communication skills within the workplace. State-wide benefits of the programs have included standardisation in teaching of clinical skills, improved access to resources for education and potential reductions in workplace training and orientation demands. Simulation based education is a safe and supportive medium for improving physiotherapist's knowledge, clinical reasoning, skills and confidence in hospital settings.