RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2025

Name: Kristen Andrews

Institution: Charles Sturt University

Title: Rehab meets AI: A new era of learning and assessment in Physiotherapy

Abstract: Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is rapidly transforming education and healthcare, including physiotherapy practice. The Australian Alliance for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare has released a national plan for the safe and ethical use of AI in healthcare which identifies 5 key opportunities for AI in healthcare: Learning, documenting, planning, communicating and discovery (Dorricott 2023). To prepare future practitioners, physiotherapy education must evolve to include AI literacy and ethical engagement with technologies which align with professional standards and expectations. Physiotherapists must also learn how to critically assess relevance, reliability, and ethical implications before use.

To meet this need, a third-year physiotherapy subject was redesigned to include explicit learning on GenAI and a revised assessment task which required students to use GenAI to generate a professional advocacy letter, supporting development towards Physiotherapy Practice Thresholds 1.1 and 1.4, which emphasise competence in digital technologies. Students are guided to develop skills and identify actions required to meet professional obligations for GenAI use, fostering a deeper understanding of how emerging technologies can be ethically, responsibly and effectively integrated into physiotherapy practice.

Students, staff and clinical partners have identified the task to be valuable in improving competency and knowledge of GenAI for our future healthcare providers.

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