

Allied Health Symposium Gippsland 2013

Up-skilling regional
speech pathologists and dietitians
to manage patients with
head & neck or
upper gastrointestinal cancer

Presented by Kerrie Missen

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Introduction

- Background
- The Workshop
- Clinical placements
- The actual experience
- Where to from here?

Background

- Patients with head and neck (H&N)/ upper GI (UGI) cancer require specialist management
- Limited opportunity for specialist experience
- Patients travel long distances to Melbourne for care
- Issue highlighted by dietitians during consultation with GRICS
- Previous body of work identified by GRICS
- Collaboration to deliver workshop and clinical placements, funded and coordinated by GRICS.

The Workshop – June 2012

- Two days duration
- 12 SPs & 12 Dtn's attended
- Combined & separate sessions

Delivered by:

- Penny Chapman, Senior Speech Pathologist St. Vincent's Hospital
- Belinda Steer, Senior Dietitian – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- Hannah Ray, Dietitian – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre



The program

Day One

Combined group:

- Aims & Objectives of Workshop
- H&N Cancer: treatment, nutrition, speech and swallowing
- UGI Cancer: treatment, nutrition and swallowing
- Palliative Care
- Role of Speech Pathologist and Dietitian in laryngectomy mgt.
- Enteral feeding
- Multidisciplinary team roles / future directions



The program

Day One continued:

After combined group session, dietitians and speech pathologists split off into separate groups:

Dietitians

- Nutritional management of H&N cancer
- Nutritional management of UGI cancer
- Regional/rural issues with caring for oncology patients

Speech pathologists

- Laryngectomy management
- Management of head & neck cancer patient population

The program

Day Two

Dietitians and speech pathologists split off into separate groups:

Dietitians

- Case Studies (basic vs complex nutrition management)
- PG-SGA training / skills maintenance (patients present)
- Practical enteral feeding / HEN session

Speech pathologists

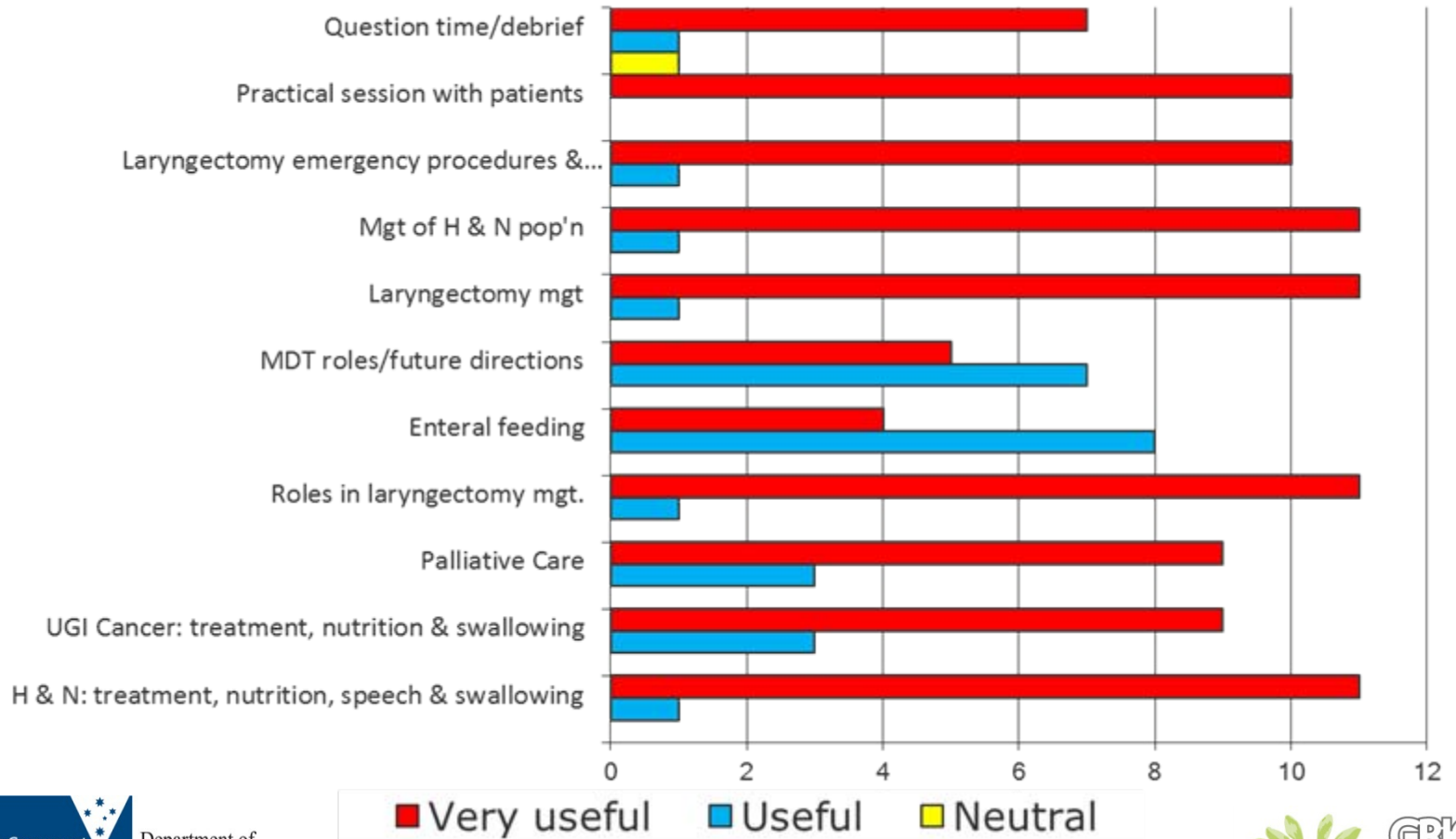
- Laryngectomy management including emergency procedures & troubleshooting around voice prostheses / complex patients
- Practical session / case studies (patients present)
- Question time and debrief

Two groups merged back into one group

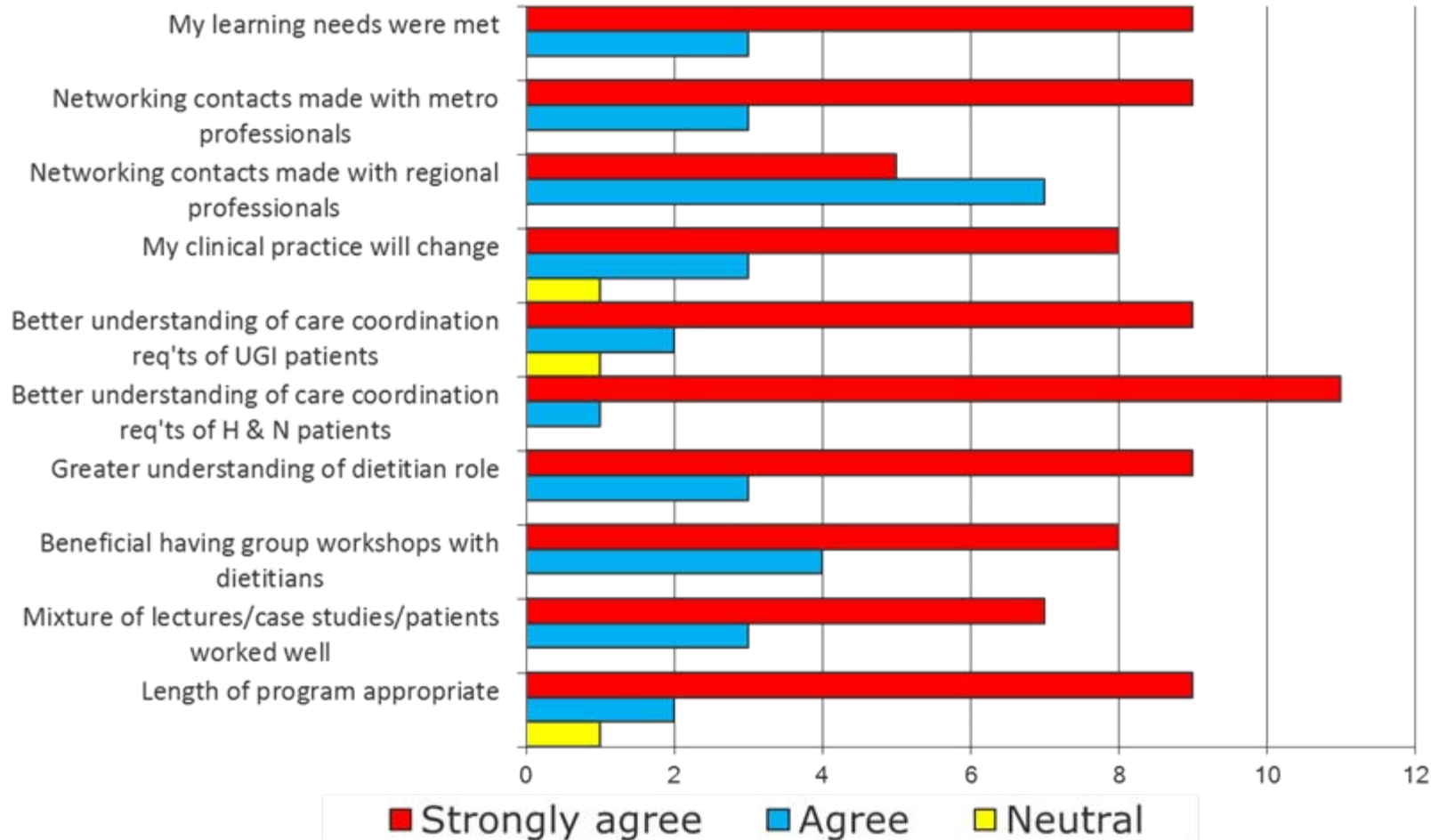
- Multidisciplinary case studies
- Evaluation & close

Results from workshop

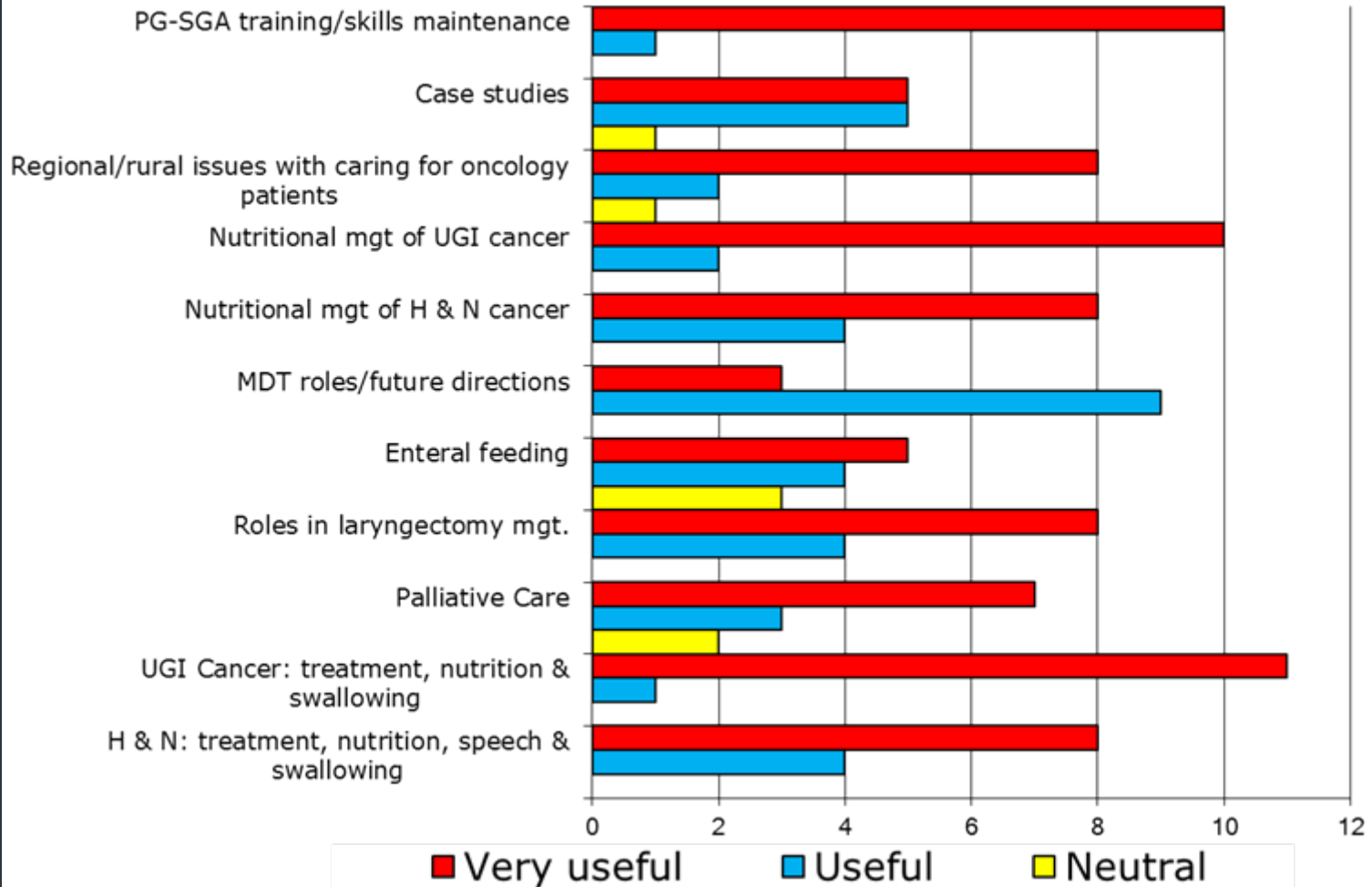
Speech Pathologist Evaluation of sessions



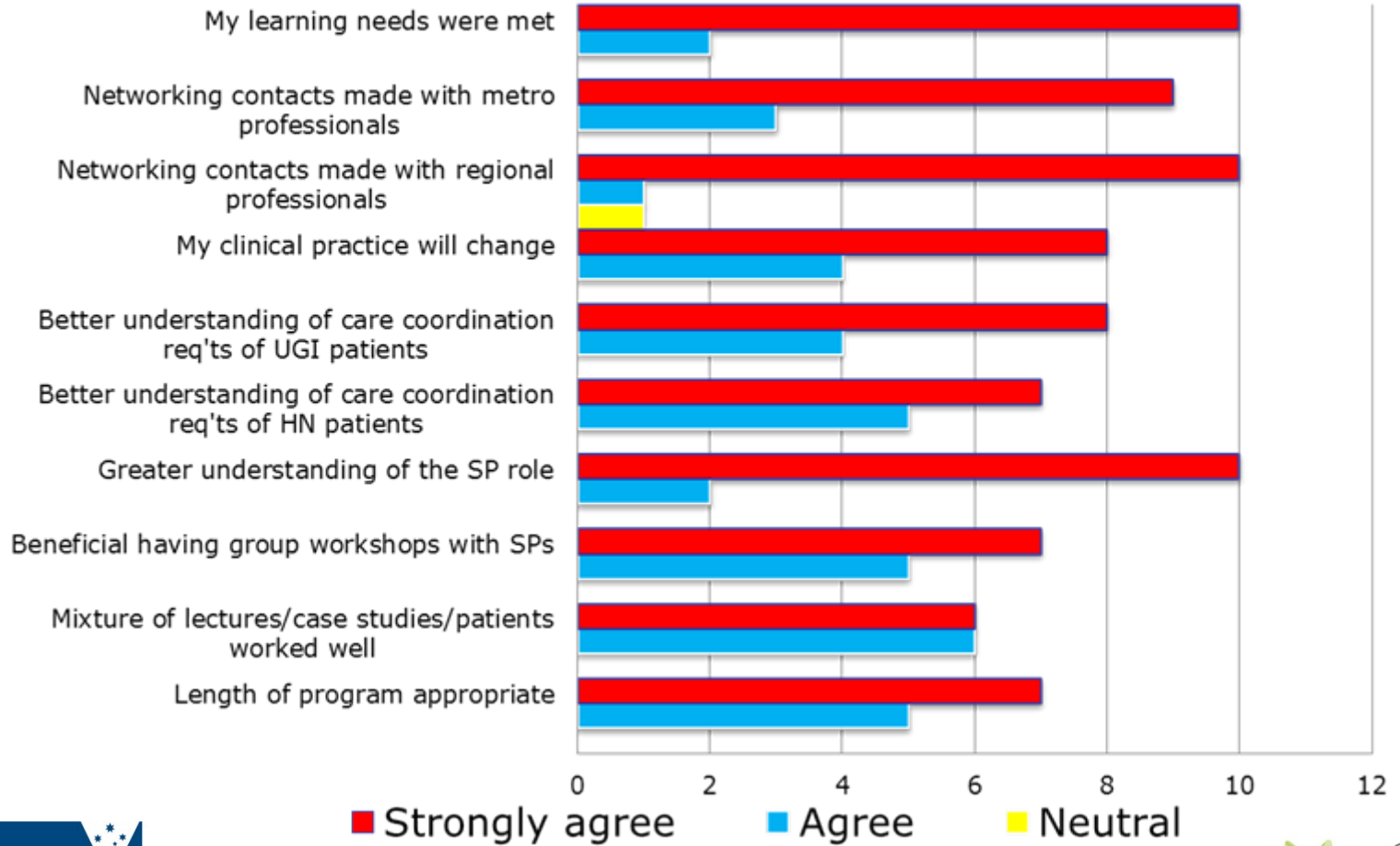
Speech Pathologist Agreement with following statements



Dietitian Evaluation of sessions



Dietitians Agreement with following statements



Clinical placements

3 Dietitians → Peter Mac
1 Dietitian – 10 hours telephone
support in lieu of visit



7 Speech Pathologists → St V's

Funded by GRICS



Clinical Placement Outcomes

100 %

- of participants met their learning objectives
- reported greater confidence in caring for patients
- reported that they would be able to put what they had learnt into practice
- reported that the knowledge/skills gained from the placement would impact on their future clinical practice.

The actual experience - Liz

- Generalists, not experts
- Increased knowledge, skills & confidence
- Improved communication with metros
- Greater confidence by metros to refer patients back
- Improved awareness of geography & challenges
- Workforce challenges

The actual experience – cont.

Workshop

“Great event – being a sole practitioner I was able to network with dietitians in area, which was really valuable for me”

“Very valuable, increased confidence in emergency management and to be a community resource for local patients” (SP)

Clinical placements

“Being able to observe patients that are only occasionally seen in my workplace has made me feel more confident in dealing with these patient types e.g. PEG patients”

“Develop contacts for discussing specific clients in the future” (SP)

Where to from here?

- GRICS surveyed Speech Pathologist and Dietitians June 2013
- Need for ongoing education identified
- 50% turnover of workshop attendees in region since workshop
- Sustainability of running same type of program?
- GRICS currently investigating option with SVH & PMCC to deliver education via DVD / written resources

Questions?

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