

The Power of Innovation

A health care system to meet our needs
NSW Health
Symposium Oct 2012

S.H.A.R.E. (Sharing Hope, Acceptance, Resilience and Experience)

A Burns Peer Support Program Volunteer Service of the Year Award

Introduction

S.H.A.R.E., a formalised peer support program, is championed by volunteers who are burn survivors, who share their story in an endeavour to improve patient outcomes. The engagement of burn survivors as Peer Support Volunteers offers patients a support system that is based on the fundamental premise of 'shared experience'.

Aim

That the sharing of experience through peer support, will assist inpatients with a burn injury during their recovery, by offering hope, motivation and social contact and improve their self esteem. This would be achieved as a result of the credibility and experiential familiarity of the peer to peer relationship.

Method

A project officer was employed to oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of a formalised, professionally facilitated program.

Planning centred around the development of infrastructure that supported core peer support principles. A steering committee operated in an advisory capacity with membership including clinicians and consumers.

Burn survivors are selected following a comprehensive recruitment, screening and training process. The burns patient is then peer matched with a burns survivor.



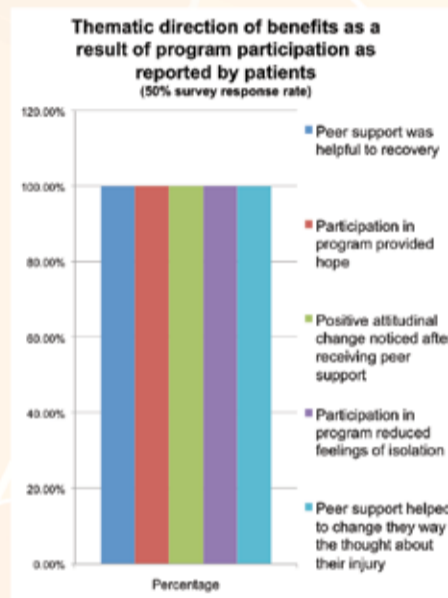
SHARE training participants and facilitators – March 2012

Results

Snapshot of Program Impact:

100% of patients who completed the evaluation form (50% response rate) reported that as a result of participation in the SHARE Program they:

- gained hope
- noticed a positive change in their attitude
- felt less isolated



Graph highlights thematic direction of program benefits March – July 2012

Conclusion

SHARE offers an approach to peer support for burn injury that is unlike anything else nationally. The S.H.A.R.E. program was formed on generalist peer support practices which were then applied to the niche area of burn injury. It is hoped that SHARE will generate discussion in this field, and provide a baseline model of support.

Future scope for SHARE may include expansion to other contexts, delivery modes, and consumer groups.

'... helped inspire me to heal and look at life again'

In the words of a SHARE recipient

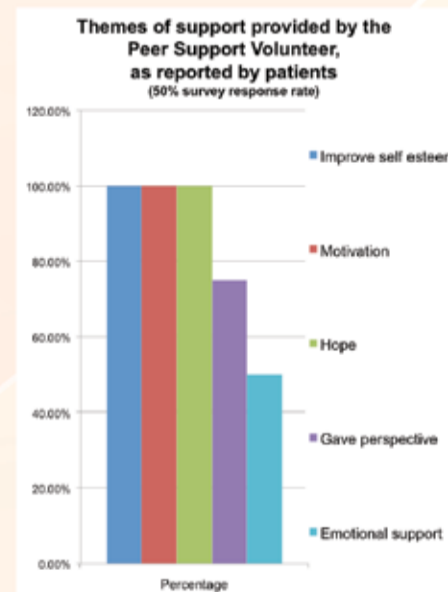


Peer support provides an opportunity for growth and new meaning

Snapshot of Volunteer Impact:

100% of patients who completed the evaluation form (50% response rate) reported that the Peer Support Volunteer:

- provided hope
- helped to motivate
- helped improve their self esteem



Graph highlights reported outcomes of volunteer support March-July 2012

Acknowledgements

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Six of the SHARE Peer Support Volunteers – May 2012