



# ISCRR

Institute for Safety, Compensation  
and Recovery Research

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# Online provider education: the early intervention physiotherapy framework

Ross Iles

Department of Physiotherapy, Monash University

ISCRR Research Fellow

# **PT leadership in timely RTW**

funding through ISCRR approved May 2013

## **PROJECT AIM**

Review RTW certification practices of physiotherapists

Interview PTs; determine barriers/facilitators to RTW

Develop targeted on-line education

Review effects on certification practices

The team: Dr Cameron Gosling, Prof Jenny Keating, Dr  
Ross Iles, Dr Prue Morgan, Mr Ruben Hopmans

# The challenge

To develop high quality education resources and to match the education material with the needs of the compensation agencies (TAC and WorkSafe), practitioners and clients

# Data Sources

Systematic review

Barriers and facilitators to RTW for injured workers

Interviews with  
PTs, OPs and CMs

Factors that influence RTW

ISCRR CRD

Analysis of physiotherapist  
certification and service practices

# Resource content

Assembly of learning objectives

- Extensive list of objectives compiled from variety of sources
- Design of case studies
- Reinforcement of key concepts
- Alignment of resources
- Design assessment tasks

Sound educational principles

Clinical Framework

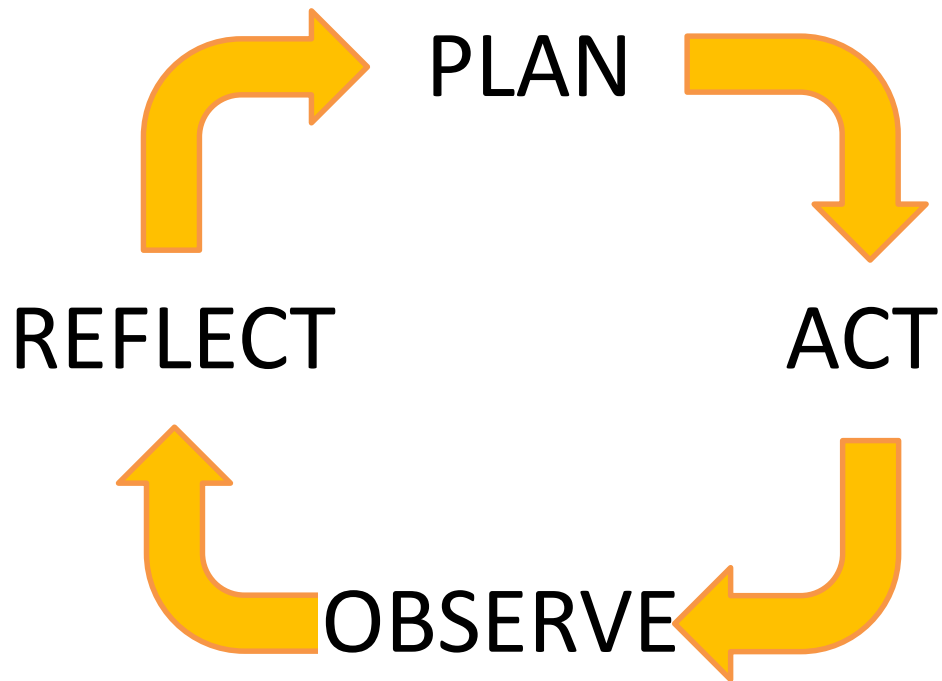
Existing policies and procedures

WorkSafe/TAC websites

Face to face OP training

# Demonstration

# Development to launch



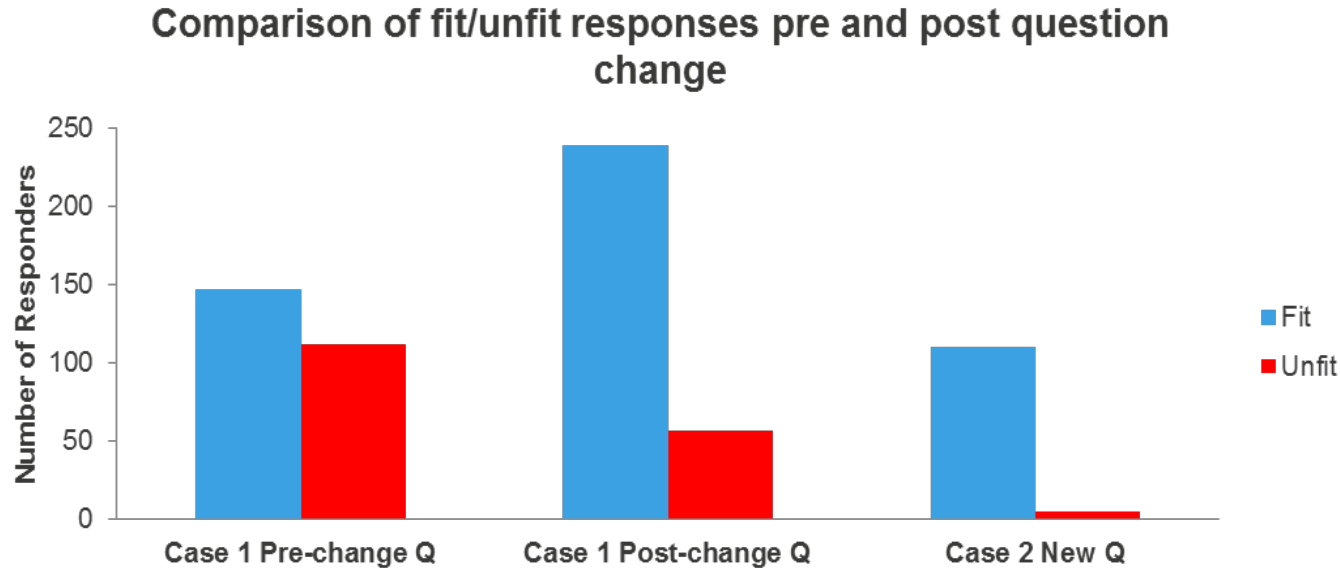
Development

Pilot 1

Pilot 2

Launch

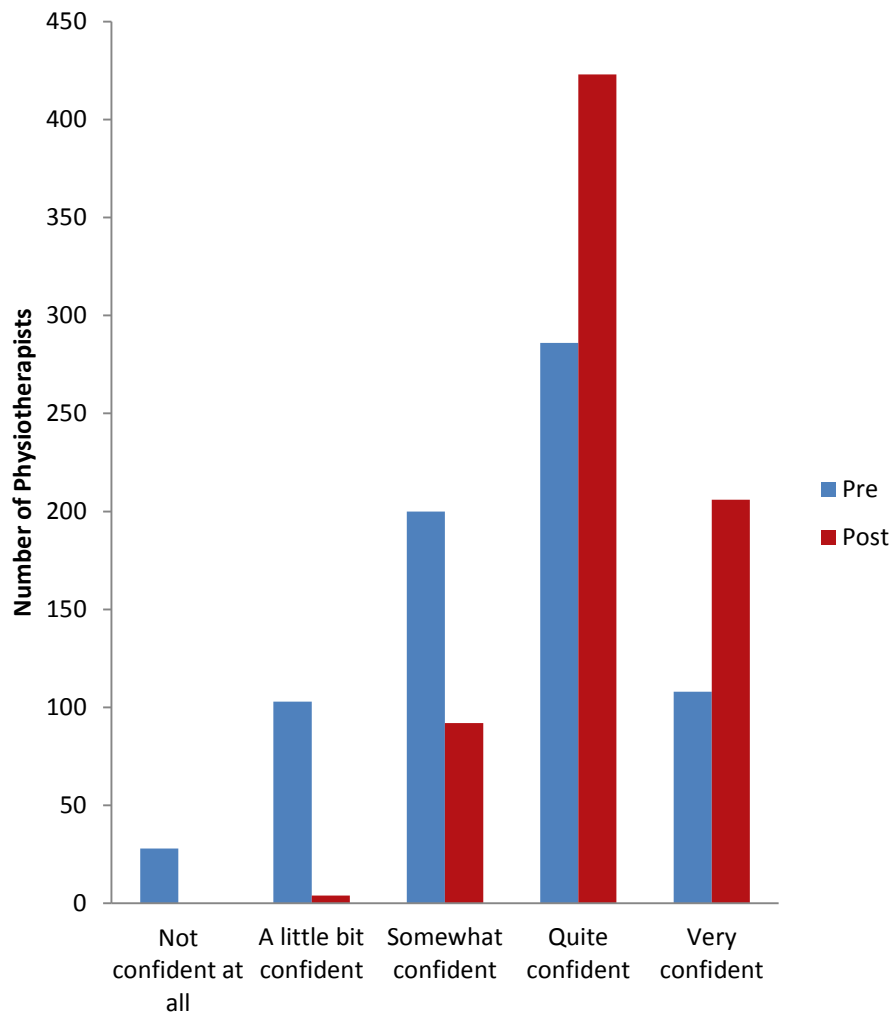
# Utility of online learning and feedback



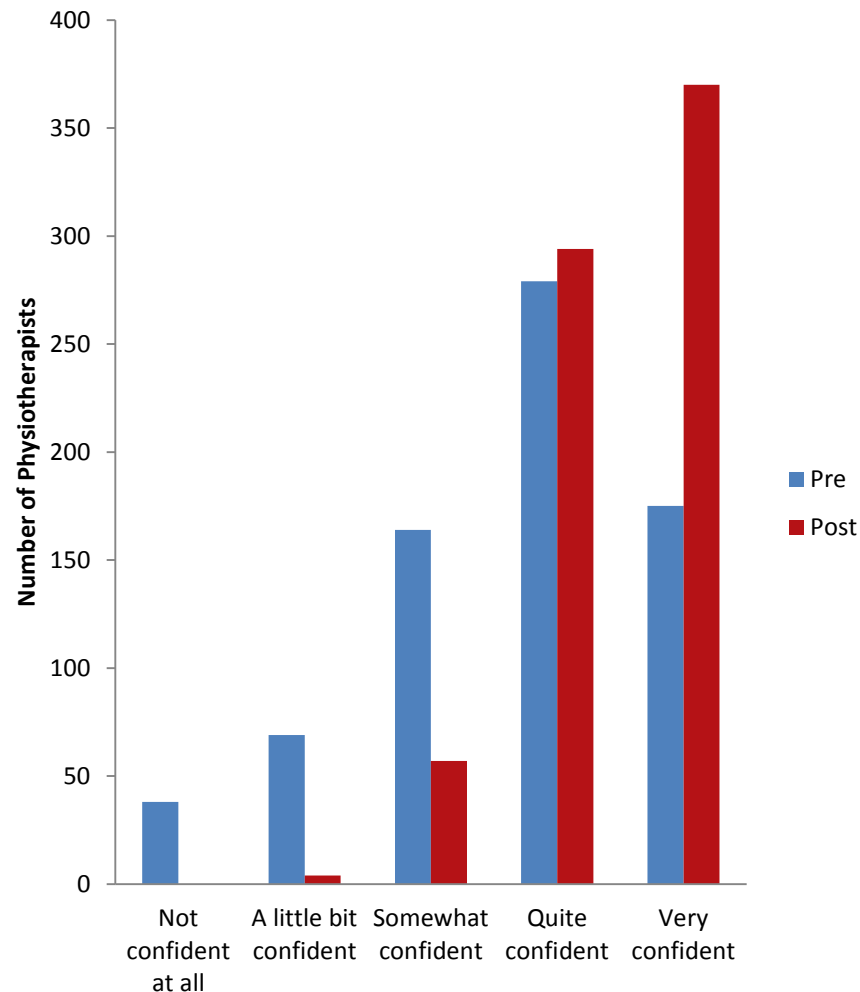
- Original question 'should PT certify patient fit/unfit for RTW?' (58% correct = fit)
- More education added re when to certify 'fit'
- Marked improvement in certification (81% = fit)
- Additional question added to later case (reinforce learning) (96% = fit)



## Confidence in understanding relevant policies and procedures



## Confidence in the ability to correctly complete a certificate of capacity



# Barriers addressed by education resource

- Consistent message
- Evidence-based
- Time efficient
- Wide-reaching
- Cost effective
- Tied to greater remuneration for treating therapists
- Multiple stakeholders involved in all stages of development

# Where to from here?

- South Australia (RTWSA) have built on this model
  - Adapted to SA context
  - Addition of two further modules
- Opportunities to further expand this model of training
  - Within Physiotherapy
  - ? Other professions
- Need time to establish the effect on certification practices
  - Early signs mirroring the Occupational Physiotherapy program

# Where to go for more information

- Full report:

[http://www.iscrr.com.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/421722/079-Strategies-to-enable-physiotherapists-to-promote-timely-return-to-work-following-injury.pdf](http://www.iscrr.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/421722/079-Strategies-to-enable-physiotherapists-to-promote-timely-return-to-work-following-injury.pdf)

- EIPF training website:

<http://www.earlyinterventionphysiotherapyframework.com.au/>

- EIPF information (VWA):

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/early-intervention-physiotherapy-framework>