The Role of Palliative Care Educational Program in Improving the Skills of Medical Practitioners

Medical practitioners reported more confidence in managing pain in people with a life-limiting illness, with a mean score on a scale from 1 (need further basic instruction to 4 = confident) increasing from 2.71 (SD=0.79) pre-placement to 3.65 (SD=0.57) post-placement [See Figure 2].

Medical practitioners also reported more confidence in managing other symptoms that the patient reports, with a mean score ranging from 1 (need further basic instruction to 4 = confident) increasing from 2.44 (SD=0.77) pre-placement to 3.53 (SD=0.53) post-placement [See Figure 3].

Responses also indicated that medical practitioners reported a better understanding of their role in providing competent care for people who identified themselves as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (mean score increased from 3.22 (1.32) to 4.80 (0.75)) and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (mean score increased from 3.20 (1.20) to 4.71 (0.86), [Scale ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 6=strongly agree, as shown in Figure 5 and 6 respectively].

Overall the data indicate that PEPA participants’ knowledge and confidence in palliative approach to care has increased. Therefore, it is imperative that programs like PEPA are sustained on a long term basis to provide medical practitioners the opportunity to increase their knowledge, skills and experience in palliative care.