

## **MOVING GP TRAINING BEYOND TWO TWITS IN A ROOM**

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### **Background:**

Social media in healthcare is not a passing phenomenon but practical ways to use it, especially in medical education, are currently more the subject of discussion than practical projects. There is clear evidence that social media can be a powerful collaborative tool, making it potentially a rich medium for education and an adjunct to supervision, especially for the newest generation of medical students and junior doctors.

### **Objective:**

The objectives were fourfold:

- Establish how social media could contribute to GP training
- Open up the traditional apprenticeship model to contributions from other healthcare providers and patients
- Allow broader audiences to see the wide range of expertise required to be a GP
- Develop a novel digital adjunct to support education in general practice in the context of Indigenous health.

### **Approach:**

'Supertwision' is a concept project using social media as a digital adjunct to regular face-to-face teaching and education. It provides a practical example of utilising Twitter, blogging and other social media to enhance learning.

Supertwision benefits from sourcing multiple perspectives on what constitutes good general practice in an Indigenous setting and publishing those perspectives, in short and long form, to an expanded, and scalable, audience.

### **Findings:**

Since January 2013 there has been wide interest in the concept from people involved in medical education and social media from Australia and overseas. It has provoked online discussions about general practice and Indigenous health between GP registrars, supervisors, medical students, allied health workers and community members.

### **Discussion:**

Supertwision demonstrates that productive discussions about general practice and Indigenous health can take place online, and that these generate a range of perspectives not available as easily within a single service. The method is able to enhance self reflection, and the appreciation of diverse perspectives, through online discussion, as well as encourage community engagement in medical education.