



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

**A PILOT COVID-19 CASE INVESTIGATION TRAINING
MODULE, A COLLABORATION SUPPORTING DISEASE
CONTAINMENT**

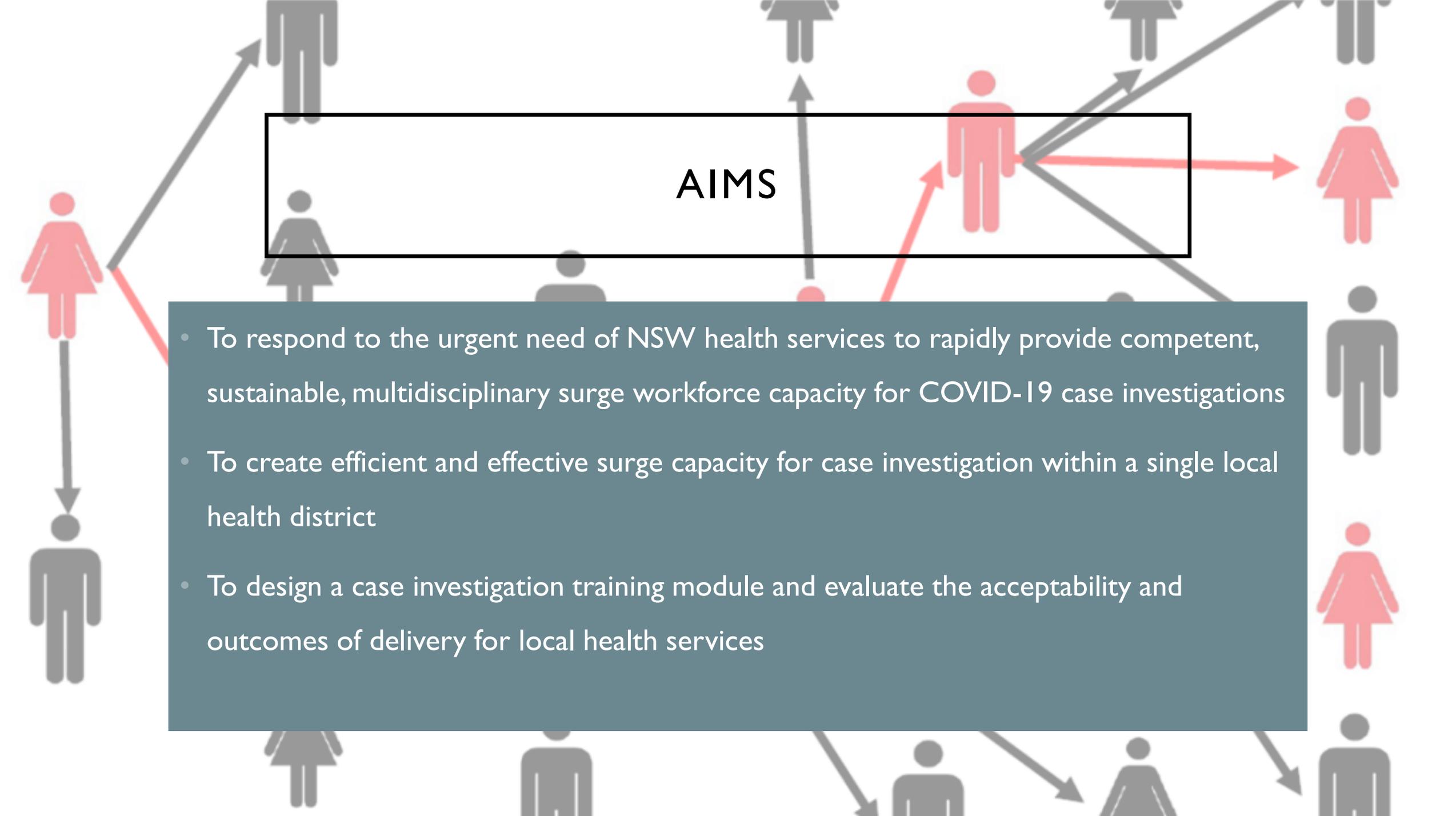
Dr Kate McBride, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University

Dr Jennifer Davids, Education Consultant, REN, Western Sydney Local Health District

On behalf of the WSLHD COVID Surge Capacity Training Team

BACKGROUND

- Containment of COVID-19 requires rapid identification and isolation of infected individuals and their contacts to prevent disease transmission
- Case investigation and contact tracing are central to a successful public health response
- In NSW, case investigations are undertaken by Public Health Units (PHU) with each Local Health District (LHD)
- Surges in COVID-19 cases require mobilisation of health professionals to supplement the PHU workforce in case investigation interviews
- There are existing courses for contact tracing (HETI, ANU, John Hopkins), but not for case investigation
- Finding appropriate personnel and providing this complex training is challenging for LHDs and PHUs



AIMS

- To respond to the urgent need of NSW health services to rapidly provide competent, sustainable, multidisciplinary surge workforce capacity for COVID-19 case investigations
- To create efficient and effective surge capacity for case investigation within a single local health district
- To design a case investigation training module and evaluate the acceptability and outcomes of delivery for local health services

PROJECT TEAM

- Professor Lynne Madden, School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame Australia
- Dr Kate McBride, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University
- Dr Jennifer Davids, Research and Education, Western Sydney Local Health District
- Dr Brahm Marjadi, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University
- Dr Aishah Moore, School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame Australia
- Ms. Christine Newman, Population Health, Western Sydney Local Health District
- Assoc. Professor Stephen Corbett, Population Health, Western Sydney Local Health District



INITIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Late March 2020 capacity needed by Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) PHU/placements needed for medical students



Partnership between WSLHD the University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA) and Western Sydney University (WSU)



Development of a one day “face to face” workshop



Mid April delivery of workshop and deployment to PHUs (buddy training)

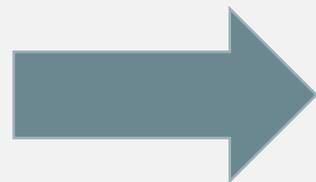
ONE DAY WORKSHOP 20 APRIL 2020

CONTENT

- COVID-19 background
- COVID-19 in Australia
- Public Health Act
- Interpreting public health data
- The Public Health Unit and the role of case investigators
- Effective communication and interviewing
- Practice interviewing

PARTICIPANTS

- N = 20
- 6 redeployed WSLHD staff
- 4 NSLHD
- 10 UNDA final year medical students



On the job “buddy training”

EVALUATION RESULTS

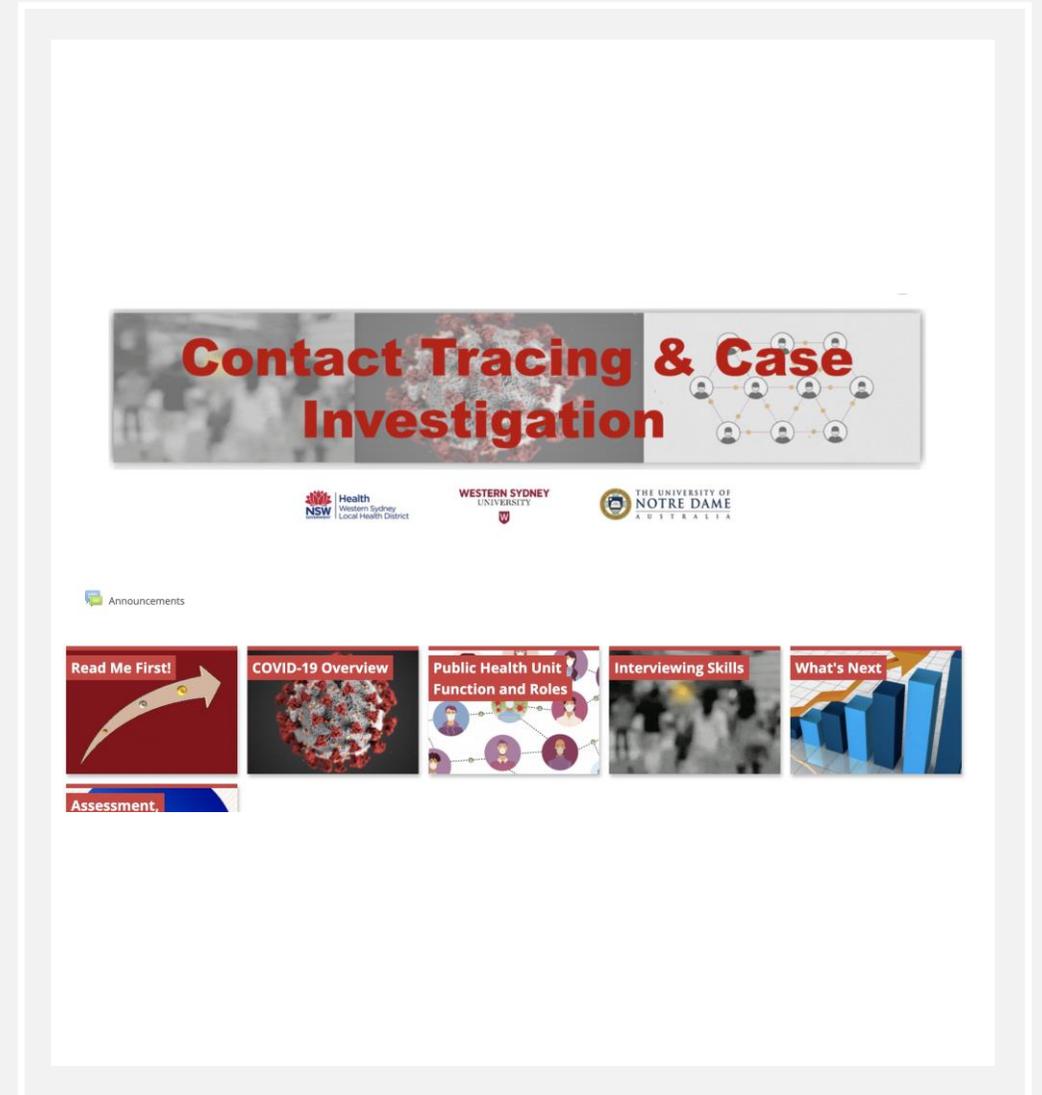
- N = 17 post workshop evaluation: majority agreed or strongly agreed content clearly presented, sequenced appropriately, assisted understanding and used activities that encouraged participation
- Participants identified excellent presentations by expert speakers and opportunities for interaction with speakers
- Interaction in the communication skills breakout groups as particular highlights of the session
- Areas for development: greater focus on the process of case interviewing, and a longer time to practice scenarios in breakout groups

OUTCOMES

- UNDA placed 4 final year medical students in PHUs (WSLHD, SWSLHD, NBMLHD, and SESLHD) for ongoing supervised training with feedback from students and PHUs very positive
- All other attendees worked as surge staff at respective PHUs

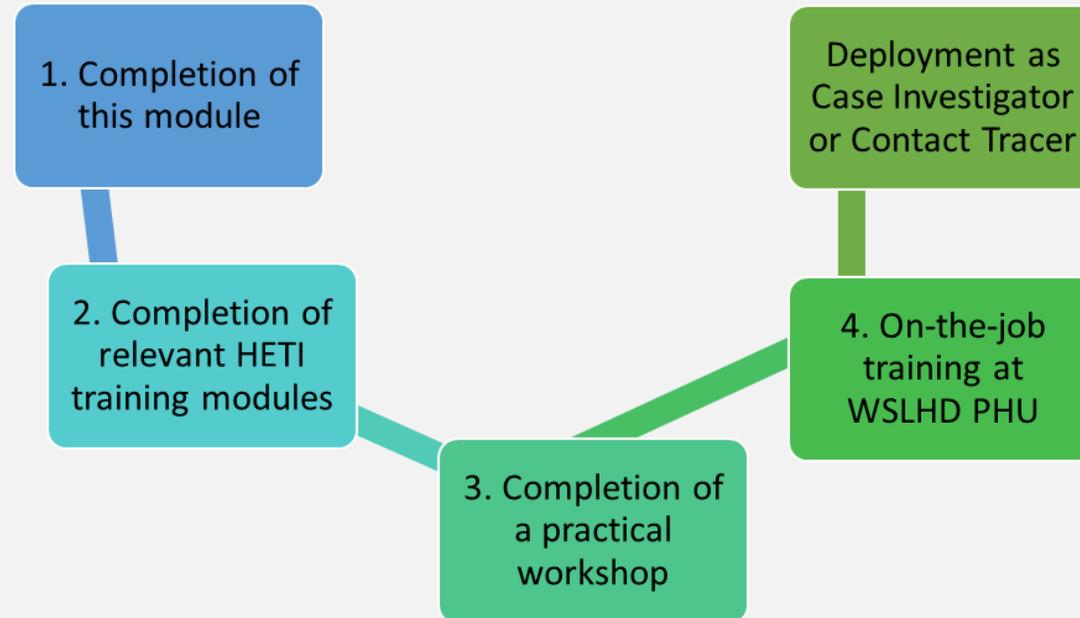
SINCE THEN WE...

- ✓ Identified a need for a sustainable programme for rapid delivery to train surge staff with minimal F2F
- ✓ Refined the existing programme by developing a Moodle course encompassing video recordings, communications practice interviews, interviewing skills, up-to-date weblinks and assessment.
- ✓ Put a responsive system in place to employ, train and have staff in place within a week
- ✓ Have trained another group of Allied Health staff and medical students from WSU & UNDA.



The screenshot displays a Moodle course interface. At the top, a banner features the title "Contact Tracing & Case Investigation" in large red font, accompanied by a network diagram of people icons. Below the banner are logos for "NSW Health Western Sydney Local Health District", "WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY", and "THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA". A section titled "Announcements" contains five course modules: "Read Me First!" (with a red arrow icon), "COVID-19 Overview" (with a virus icon), "Public Health Unit Function and Roles" (with a network diagram icon), "Interviewing Skills" (with a video camera icon), and "What's Next" (with a bar chart icon). A partially visible "Assessment" module is shown at the bottom left.

CONTACT TRACING AND CASE INVESTIGATION TRAINING MODEL



RESULTS

- Established training programme
- Increased existing and potential (rapidly responding) capacity
- Casual pool of surge capacity staff (students and allied health)
- Partnership between public health units and universities (future workforce/joint initiatives)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Professor Peter Sainsbury
- Professor Greg Stewart
- Dr Kushani Marshall
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- WSLHD PHU staff