

Introducing simulation training to improve the organ donation conversation

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Background and aim

- The family consent rate for organ donation is low in Australia (45-50%)
- NSW OTDS has trained doctors and nurses to be 'Designated Requestors' (DRs) – to lead the organ donation conversation
- This training has been augmented with a simulation program
- The COMFORT Study is evaluating this process

Method

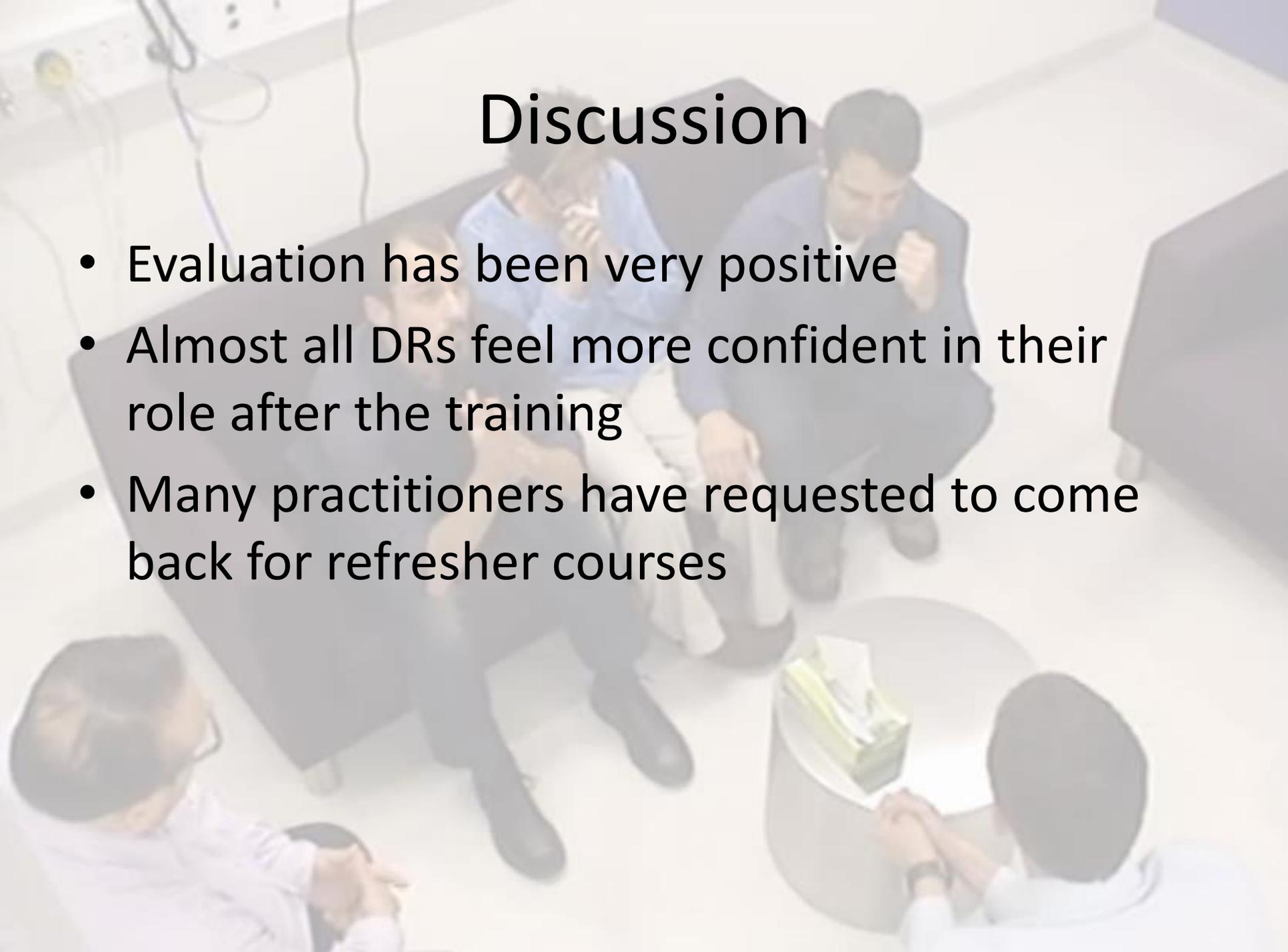
- We created a family donation conversation simulation training program using professional actors
- Real anonymised cases are used
- DRs hold a planning meeting with the medical team and then lead the donation conversation
- Scenarios are recorded for video-debriefing and future viewing
- Debriefing is conducted by qualified experts and includes use of video and feedback from actors both in and out-of-character

Results - evaluation

- 44 participants have completed the training to date

Question	Response
Is simulation a valuable addition to the core training?	Yes 100% No 0%
Should simulation be an essential part of the overall DR training?	Yes 91% No 9%
Do you feel more confident to be a DR?	Yes 95% No 5%
How much did the simulation meet your expectations?	Met 50% Exceeded 50%
Overall rating	Good 50% Outstanding 50%

Discussion



- Evaluation has been very positive
- Almost all DRs feel more confident in their role after the training
- Many practitioners have requested to come back for refresher courses

Discussion

- Since the commencement of the DR training in New South Wales in 2011, the family consent rate in the state has risen from 50% to 61%
- There has been an ongoing campaign to promote organ and tissue donation during this time which is likely to have contributed to this rise

Conclusion

- We have implemented a popular and successful simulation course to help train organ donation specialists in difficult end-of-life and organ donation discussions, which may be contributing to the increasing consent rate for organ donation in NSW

Acknowledgments

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