

## **Greening Hospitals Hackathon: Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) Code Green**

### **GGHH Agenda Goals**

- Leadership

### **Organisational Goal**

AMSA Code Green hoped to:

- Encourage medical students to consider sustainability in a healthcare setting
- Empower medical students to develop initiatives which create sustainable change
- Improve sustainability outcomes in various areas of healthcare through the implementation of student-led initiatives

### **Progress Achieved**

- In 2020, 120 student registrations made up 21 teams who worked with 17 mentors providing expert advice to develop pitches addressing food wastage, plastic recycling, energy efficiency and more.
- In 2021, 60 student registrations made up 13 teams who worked with 12 mentors.
- Five projects being pursued across Australia after the 2020 and 2021 Hackathons with one fully implemented

### **The Issue**

Medical students frequently observe unsustainable practices in the healthcare setting and often feel powerless to change these behaviours. They are often unaware of how to go about raising issues in the hospital setting or how to propose a solution in a way that is appealing to hospital administration. This can be distressing to students given their awareness of the health impacts of climate change and the significant contribution of the healthcare sector to Australia's carbon emissions.

### **Sustainability Strategy Implemented**

The Greening Hospitals Hackathon is a weekend-long event in which students from various disciplines work in teams of 4-6 to develop solutions to make healthcare more sustainable under the mentorship of experts in the field and with the assistance of masterclasses. The event is run online and attracts students from across Australia. At the end of the weekend, the solutions are pitched to a judging panel who then decide which initiatives will receive funding to implement their idea at a health service. AMSA Code Green works with the winning teams to support further development of their idea and its ultimate implementation.

### **Implementation process**

The Greening Hospitals Hackathon is organized by the AMSA Code Green team made up of volunteer medical students in their roles for a year. It was first run in 2020 with the view to make it an annual event, which is supported through the handover process between each years' committees. Organising the event involves:

- Securing sponsorship or funding from grants to support the implementation of the winning project.
- Researching and contacting mentors, judges and masterclass speakers to share their expert advice and skills with the Hackathon teams.
- Advertising the event to students and encouraging participation.

- Managing the logistics of the event – links to online meetings, a timetable, means of communication for participating teams (some of whom are meeting for the first time during the event)

The event takes approximately 3 months to organize, culminating in a 2.5 day event over a weekend.

### **Tracking Progress**

The success of the Greening Hospitals Hackathon is measured through student engagement and the implementation of the winning projects. Each of the projects which received funding for implementation has its own measures of success.

### **Challenges and lessons learned**

Some of the challenges in organizing this event are as follows:

- Securing funding for the winning projects – this is particularly difficult since the actual content of the winning projects is unknown at the time of discussions with potential sponsors/funding organisations.
- Student participation – given the moderately large time commitment, taking up participants' weekend, the students who engaged with the event tended to be already motivated and passionate. This could be a limiting factor for student participation.
- Project implementation after the event – implementing the projects from the Hackathon faces multiple barriers including the inexperience of teams and the event organizers in project implementation as well as the lack of time available between medical studies and placement to work on the projects.

### **Next Steps**

We are looking to continue to build on the scale and scope of the event, particularly in relation to securing more funding to better support the winning projects and to increase the number of projects that can be pursued from the event. We intend to extend our network of mentors to assist the teams. We are working towards fully implementing the projects from the event.

### **Demographic information**

Code Green is the climate change and health project of the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) which is the representative body of over 17,000 medical students across Australia at 23 different universities. It is run by volunteer medical students who are passionate about planetary health.

### **Links**

Please add links to relevant documents referred to on this case study.

AMSA Code Green website: <https://globalhealth.amsa.org.au/codegreen>

2021 Greening Hospitals Hackathon sponsorship prospectus:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10t5DXX6O9jwI73S4QtbZ3a-61yKxZ8uj/view?usp=sharing>

2021 Greening Hospitals Delegate package:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iD-k6U8E-BvYqp\\_lYFhN2HtG1NwDub32/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iD-k6U8E-BvYqp_lYFhN2HtG1NwDub32/view?usp=sharing)

2021 Greening Hospitals Mentors:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OehrMPmq0dE5DcCTdaNbXtDgX8aLlXk4/view?usp=sharing>

2021 Greening Hospitals Mentor prospectus:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e5EZdZccPF7EYOkYuwhGFW\\_543QakPa5/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e5EZdZccPF7EYOkYuwhGFW_543QakPa5/view?usp=sharing)

2020 Greening Hospitals Mentor guide:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fQ6jRWBA-xLvofevaYbs3RrBKYkMIPev/view?usp=sharing>