

# Evaluating Staff Satisfaction and Confidence Post-Simulations of the COVID-19 Patient in the Intensive Care Unit

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## BACKGROUND

The evolving nature of the novel COVID-19 pandemic presents several challenges to the healthcare sector. The perceived personal risk to healthcare workers, especially those involved in aerosol generating procedures, the fear of getting infected and transmitting the disease as well as the limitations on resources compounds the apprehension amongst staff<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Therefore, the Mater Hospital Intensive Care Unit utilised a series of high-fidelity simulations as a safe learning environment to rapidly upskill healthcare professionals and assess adherence to guidelines in high fidelity situations.

## AIM

To review the confidence and satisfaction of participants following high fidelity simulations involving management of patients infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in the intensive care unit.

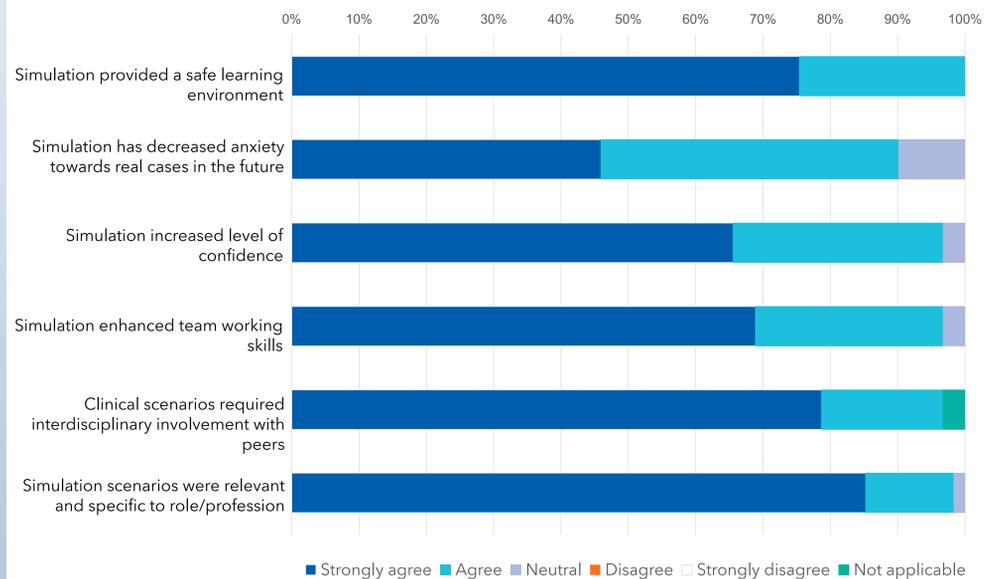
## METHODS

High fidelity simulations involving endotracheal intubation, extubation and proning of the patient infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus were held in the Intensive Care Unit of the Mater Hospital, South Brisbane. Simulations were conducted over several weeks with multiple sessions on a daily basis held during each week. A dedicated bed space for simulation was organised to replicate an anteroom with interlocking doors. Participants included intensivists, anaesthetists, critical care registrars, house officers and nursing staff. A post simulation questionnaire was designed based on a literature review of studies evaluating satisfaction and confidence following high-fidelity simulations<sup>4,5,6</sup>. The questionnaire was administered post completion of the simulation sessions and responses were anonymous. Qualitative analysis of the data was performed.

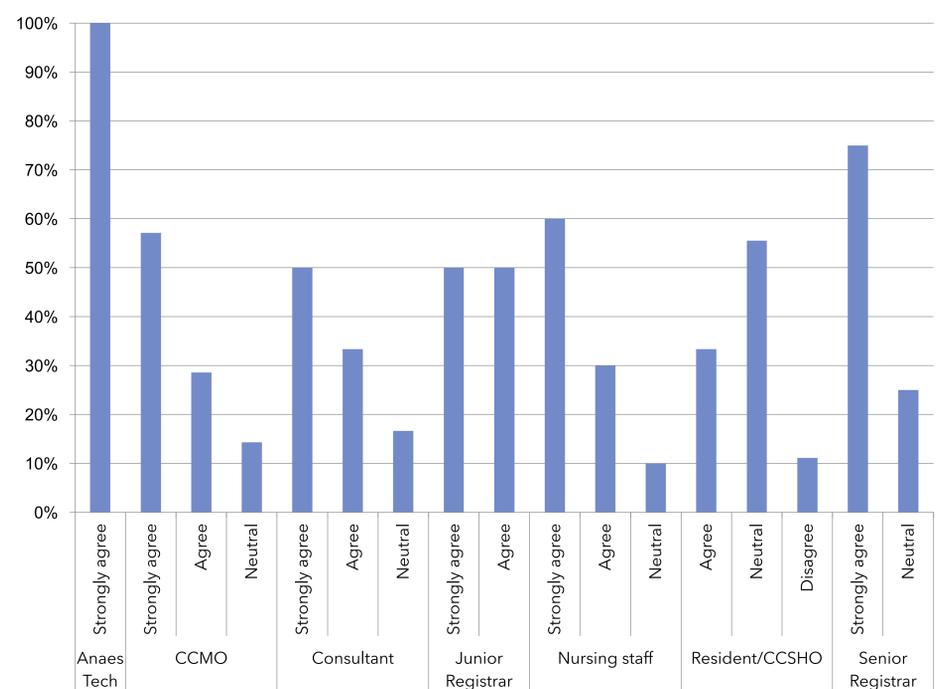


**Figure 1.** Mater Hospital Anaesthetic Staff undertaking a high fidelity intubation simulation of a patient infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus in the Intensive Care Unit.

## RESULTS



**Figure 2.** Post simulation questionnaire responses (n=61)



**Figure 3.** Feedback responses for simulation enhancing technical skills

## CONCLUSION

97% of participants agreed the simulations increased their level of confidence. The threats of limited resources and high transmission rates contribute to healthcare worker fear, therefore, in-situ simulation provides a safe learning environment to upskill and upscale a confident workforce.

## REFERENCES

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