


UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

School of Nursing & Midwifery



RESEARCH WEEK

Program

	<p>critical thinking</p>		
<p>caring</p>		<p>nursing + midwifery</p>	<p>Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation, as any painter's or sculptor's work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God's spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts.</p>

22nd-26TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

RESEARCH WEEK

Welcome

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at UniSA provides a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and higher degree programs. The School's higher degree programs provide a substantial program of multidisciplinary research that addresses issues related to clinical practice, health, and teaching and learning. This doctoral research forms an important component of the research output of the school.

To showcase this exciting research activity, the School holds an annual Research Week for doctoral students to present their research to their peers and to the school community. Research Week also provides a number of research development opportunities for doctoral candidates and academic staff, in terms of participating in seminars and workshops.

On behalf of the School of Nursing and Midwifery I welcome you to this week of presentations and seminars, and encourage you to participate in the social events that have been scheduled during this week.

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Head of School

Date:

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th September, 2008

Location:

Room C4-17
Centenary Building, City East Campus
UniSA

Contact:

Dr David Evans
Program Director: Research Degrees
(08) 8302 2593
david.evans@unisa.edu.au



Profile of Presenters

Professor Helen McCutcheon

Professor Helen McCutcheon has been involved in the education and delivery of nursing and midwifery for 30 years. She is the Head of School at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of South Australia. Professor McCutcheon is widely published and has established a program of collaborative research, particularly in the area of gerontic health.

Professor Sue McDonald

Sue McDonald holds the joint position of Professor of Midwifery at La Trobe University and the Mercy Hospital for Women, providing professional leadership for the Mercy/La Trobe Midwifery Professorial Unit. Professor McDonald is a midwifery consultant to the Nurses Board of Victoria for Curriculum and Course Accreditation, a member of the Maternity Services Advisory Committee, Department of Health Services, Victoria, a member of the Scientific Advisory Sub Committee of Royal Women's Hospital Ethics Committee, and a scientific reviewer for NHMRC project grant applications. Professor McDonald's research background and major research interests lie in the area of evaluation of clinical practice interventions in maternal and neonatal care and in the broader context of women's reproductive health.

Associate Professor Gavin Leslie

Associate Professor Leslie has 27 years experience in critical care nursing as a clinician, educator, administrator and researcher. His PhD in biomedical science focused on renal replacement therapy for critically ill adults. He recently moved to Curtin University in a joint appointment with Royal Perth Hospital to focus further on his clinical research interests. Associate Professor Leslie also has strong links in publication as editor of Australian Critical Care and editorial board member and reviewer for 6 other journals.

Associate Professor Amanda Kenny

Associate Professor Amanda Kenny is Director of the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University Bendigo. Her current research focuses on health service delivery in small rural hospitals. Associate Professor Kenny has completed consultancies for government and frequently advises on issues for rural nursing. She has attracted a number of grants and international publications and has been the recipient of both teaching and research awards. She is currently Assistant Editor of the Journal of Clinical Nursing.



Profile of Presenters

Professor Ian Richards

Ian Richards is Professor of Journalism and chair of the University's Human Research Ethics Committee. He is also a UniSA Supported Researcher, a Key Researcher with the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies (HRISS), and an Australian Research Council "Expert of International Standing". Professor Richards has been closely involved with the establishment of the Ethics Centre of South Australia (ECSA), which fosters collaborative research and scholarship in ethics and is a joint venture between UniSA, Flinders University and the University of Adelaide.

Professor Val Wilson

Professor Val Wilson is Director of Nursing Research & Practice Development at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, & Professor of Nursing Research & Practice Development, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Health, University of Technology, Sydney. The focus of her work is on engaging with clinicians to develop person centred approaches to care, that are both evidence-based and take into account the needs of patients and families. The evaluation of this work, together with a number of local, state and International projects, form the basis of Professor Wilson's research work.

Charlotte Ferrier

Charlotte joined UniSA to take up the newly established position of Research Coordinator in 2006. Prior to that she had held a similar position at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne. Charlotte works closely with School Research Degree Coordinators to ensure administrative requirements and support for students is managed in a streamlined and effective manner.



PhD Students

Pam Alde

A poststructural analysis of representations of old age and caring for older people in the curricula of undergraduate nursing programs.

Supervisors

- *Dr Kay Price*
- *Professor J Meyer*

Amy Baker

Ethical Considerations in the Recovery from Mental Illness: Exploring, reflecting upon and responding to losses resulting from mental illness through a participatory action research approach.

Supervisors

- *Associate Professor Nicholas Procter*
- *Dr Tony Gibbons*

Monica Broniecki

Risk factors for back, neck and shoulder musculoskeletal injuries, claims and cost of claims in ambulance officers

Supervisors

- *Professor Adrian Esterman*
- *Professor Esther May*

Sandra Campbell

Intergenerational risk for chronic disease in a cohort of Indigenous infants in North Queensland.

Supervisors

- *Professor Robyn McDermott*
- *Professor Adrian Esterman*

Mark Dallman

To establish best practice for the identification and subsequent management of patients presenting to an acute medical ward with an episode of acute delirium.

Supervisor

- *Dr David Evans*
- *Dr Jane Warland*



PhD Students

Helena de Anstiss

Young refugees with mental health needs: an exploratory study of help-seeking.

Supervisor

- Dr Tahereh Ziaian
- Associate Professor Peter Baghurst

Shona Dove

Partnering choice: A critical ethnography of continuity of care midwifery in South Australia

Supervisors

- Professor Eimear.Muir-Cochrane
- Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

Ritva Eronen

Determining an evidence-based maternal and child health nursing model which is responsive to the needs of families with children from birth to six months of age in the ACT

Supervisors

- Professor Jan Pincombe
- Dr Helen Calabretto

David Foley

A triangulated study describing the care of intellectually disabled people in an emergency department.

Supervisors

- Professor Helen McCutcheon
- Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

Andrew Gardner

A constructivist grounded theory inquiry into how mental health clinicians negotiate 'the' professional boundary and preserve 'the' therapeutic relationship

Supervisors

- Professor Helen McCutcheon
- Dr Maria Fedoruk



PhD Students

Odette Gibson

Evaluating performance of primary health care models in Far North Queensland in managing people with chronic disease.

Supervisor

- *Professor Leonie Segal*
- *Dr Duncan Mortimer*

Anna Gregory

Factors affecting quality of health care for older people living at home with chronic conditions and complex care needs.

Supervisors

- *Professor Leonie Segal*
- *Associate Professor Debbie Kralik*

Mary Harris

A hermeneutic investigation into breastfeeding and bonding from the perspective of women who are survivors of abuse.

Supervisors

- *Dr Robyn Nayda*
- *Dr Colleen Smith*

Penny Kearney

An exploration of transition in the family context following stroke

Supervisors

- *Professor Helen McCutcheon*
- *Dr Marie Heartfield*

Anna Kopeikin

How adolescent girls from refugee background describe their coping strategies in adjusting to resettlement: an exploratory study of resilience.

Supervisors

- *Associate Professor Nicholas Procter*
- *Dr Tahereh Ziaian*
- *Dr Jane Warland*



PhD Students

Ola Kutah

A critical analysis of the construction of health literacy by paediatric and child and youth health RNs

Supervisors

- *Dr Kay Price*
- *Professor Helen McCutcheon*

Kim Milde

Philosophical hermeneutic interpretation of learning in rehabilitation

Supervisors

- *Dr Colleen Smith*
- *Associate Professor Nicholas Procter*

Louis Msema

Ascertaining STI knowledge and sexual behaviour of Adelaide African refugee men for culturally competent prevention

Supervisors

- *Associate Professor Nicholas Procter*
- *Dr Helen Calabretto*

Christine Palmer

Nursing practice in an acute psychiatric inpatient unit: A critical ethnography

Supervisors

- *Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane*
- *Associate Professor Lynne Barnes*

Desrae Parker

An exploration of the influence of Sexual Health and Relationships Training on the role of Disability Workers in SA

Supervisors

- *Dr Lynne Barnes*
- *Dr Marie Heartfield*

Craig Phillips

Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition

Supervisors

- *Professor Adrian Esterman*
- *Dr Colleen Smith*
- *Associate Professor Amanda Kenny*



PhD Students

Edith Reddin

GRABS Graduates midwives and breastfeeding support:
What factors influence the development of their practice

Supervisors

- *Professor Jan Pincombe*
- *Professor Philip Darbyshire*

Jacinta Secomb

Simulation and clinical decision making: A constructivist investigation

Supervisors

- *Dr Colleen Smith*
- *Dr. Kate Andre*
- *Professor Adrian Esterman*

Heidi Silverston

Leadership development and healthy workplaces

Supervisor

- *Professor Leonie Segal*
- *Professor Helen McCutcheon*
- *Associate Professor Pat Buckley*

Sandra Ullrich

Investigating nutritional care in nursing practice within acute and residential aged care: Connections between structure, process and outcomes using an action research approach.

Supervisors

- *Professor Helen McCutcheon*
- *Dr Barbara Parker*



PhD Students

Ava Deborah Walsh

Breastfeeding policies and practices in Australian maternity hospitals – a comparative study into the level of implementation of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding

Supervisors

- *Professor Jan Pincombe*
- *Dr Ann Henderson*

Diane Wright

Exploring the midwife role in the confidence building of pregnant women during antenatal care events: social models and environmental realities. An ethnographic exploration into the nature of the mother-midwife relationship during antenatal care events

Supervisors

- *Professor Jan Pincombe*
- *Dr Robyn Nayda*



Monday

22nd September, 2008

Chair **Professor Helen McCutcheon**

9.30 – 10.00

Coffee

10.00 – 10.30

**Professor Helen
McCutcheon**

Opening and Welcome

10.30 – 11.00

Helena de Anstiss

Refugee child and adolescent help-seeking
for social, behavioural and mental health
problems

11.00 – 11.30

Morning Tea

11.30 – 12.00

Shona Dove

Partnering choice: A critical ethnography of
Continuity-of-Care midwifery in South
Australia

12.00 – 12.30

Christine Palmer

The relationship is central

12.30 – 1.30

Lunch

1.30 - 2.30

**Associate Professor
Gavin Leslie**

Preparing your ethics application - the
researchers perspective

2.30 - 3.00

Afternoon Tea

3.00 - 4.00

**Associate Professor
Amanda Kenny**

Winning races when the track is muddy : the
challenge of building a track record

Close



Tuesday

23rd September, 2008

Chair	Dr David Evans	
9.00 – 9.30		Coffee
9.30 – 10.00	David Foley	A triangulated study describing the care of intellectually disabled people in an emergency department.
10.00 – 10.30	Ola Kutah	Planning and implementing a Delphi Survey
10.30 – 11.00	Sandra Ullrich	The role of nurses in the provision of nutritional care within complex health systems.
11.00 – 11.30		Morning Tea
11.30 – 12.00	Kim Milde	Interpretations of learning in rehabilitation following spinal cord injury
12.00 – 12.30	Penny Kearney	Plotting storylines: working with narratives narratively
12.30 – 1.30		Lunch
1.30 - 2.30	Professor Val Wilson	Practice Development
2.30 - 3.00		Afternoon Tea
3.00 - 4.00		Practice Development (continued)
Close		



Wednesday

24th September, 2008

Chair **Professor Adrian Esterman**

9.00 – 9.30		Coffee
9.30 – 10.00	Ava Debbie Walsh	Constructs used by maternity staff to describe baby friendly accreditation in Australia.
10.00 – 10.30	Monica Broniecki	Risk factors for injuries in ambulance officers
10.30 – 11.00	Diane Wright	Challenges of field research

11.00 – 11.30

Morning Tea

11.30 – 12.00	Andrew Gardner	Superficial supervision – Are we placing mental health professionals at risk?
12.00 – 12.45	Anna Gregory	Health system factors affecting quality of health care for older people living at home with chronic and complex care needs.

12.45 – 1.30

Lunch

1.30 - 2.30	Professor Ian Richards	Ethics at UniSA
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2.30 - 3.00

Afternoon Tea

3.00 - 4.00	Charlotte Ferrier	An introduction to research grants and scholarships
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Close

Dinner : 6.30pm
Students & Staff
Café Primo, Rundle Street.
Pay as you go



Thursday

25th September, 2008

Chair **Associate Professor Nicholas Procter**

9.30 – 10.00

Coffee

10.00 – 10.30

Desrae Parker

Sexual health training and the disability worker

10.30 – 11.00

Jacinta Secombe

Pilot studies a research process necessity

11.00 – 11.30

Morning Tea

11.30 – 12.00

Craig Phillips

Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition

12.00 – 12.30

Amy Baker

Reflecting on recovery within mental health from a virtue ethics viewpoint.

12.30 – 2.30

Professorial BBQ

**Free Afternoon
for Individual
Supervision**

Close



Friday

25th September, 2008

Chair **Professor Jan Pincombe**

9.30 – 10.00

Coffee

10.00 – 10.30

Sandra Campbell

Intergenerational risk for chronic disease
in a cohort of indigenous infants

10.30 – 11.00

Mark Dallman

To establish best practice for the
identification and subsequent management
of patients presenting to an acute medical
ward with an episode of acute delirium

11.00 – 11.30

Morning Tea

11.30 – 12.00

Heidi Silverston

Leadership development and healthy
workplaces

12.00 – 12.30

Odette Gibson

Evaluating performance of primary health
care models in Far North Queensland in
managing people with chronic disease

12.30 – 1.30

Lunch

1.30 - 2.30

Professor Sue McDonald

From good idea to successful funding

2.30 - 3.00

Wine and Cheese

Close



Candidate Abstracts



Candidate

Amy Baker

Supervisors

Associate Professor Nicholas Procter
Dr Tony Gibbons

Title

Reflecting on recovery within mental health from a virtue ethics viewpoint.

Abstract

Within mental health, recovery is conceptualised as a way of living a satisfying, hopeful and contributing life, despite the limitations caused by mental illness. Elements central to recovery include hope, personal meaning, discovery and responsibility and this approach has become the cornerstone of current mental health policy and service delivery within Australia. However, multiple definitions and variations of recovery exist and it is generally accepted that recovery as an approach is still evolving.

A domain which has received little attention within the recovery literature is ethics, which is primarily concerned with the quality of human life. The recovery approach is awash with ethical concepts yet reference to ethical theory is scarce. In this presentation, a core ethical theory, virtue ethics, will be used as a lens to consider and explore the recovery approach.

Virtue ethics originates from Ancient Greece, in particular the work of Aristotle, and is one of three core ethical approaches today. This approach emphasises character, in contrast to rule-based theories (deontology) and consequence-based approaches (consequentialism). Within the healthcare literature, dialogue about virtue ethics has traditionally focused on the moral character of health professionals and to some extent the character traits of people receiving healthcare. Drawing upon work from several key virtue ethicists, this presentation will focus on how the discipline of ethics, in particular virtue ethics, may enrich our understanding and contribute to the advancement of models and approaches guiding practice, specifically the recovery approach in mental health.



Candidate

Monica Broniecki

Supervisors

Professor Adrian Esterman
Professor Esther May

Title

Risk factors for injuries in ambulance officers

Abstract

Thesis: Risk Factor for back, neck and shoulder musculoskeletal injuries, claims and cost of claims in ambulance officers.

This thesis explores the risk factors for back, neck and shoulder musculoskeletal injuries and claims in ambulance officers. The presentation will cover the three phases of the study, namely 1) a demographic description of the SA Ambulance Service including the numbers of injuries and claims, 2) predictors for injuries and claims arising from the pre-employment medical, functional capacity evaluation and psychometric testing, and 3) a comparison of individual, physical and psychosocial risk factors for ambulance officers who have sustained an injury or claim and those who have not.

A progress report will be given on achievements so far, that is, gaining ethics approval, completing the first thesis chapter and preparing two papers for publication. The key findings of the papers will be presented. The first paper compares the prevalence of ambulance officer musculoskeletal injuries with that found in nursing. The second paper compares the risk factors contributing to musculoskeletal disorders in ambulance officers with that of nurses.



Candidate

Sandra Campbell

Supervisors

Professor Robyn McDermott
Professor Adrian Esterman

Title

Intergenerational risk for chronic disease in a cohort of indigenous infants

Abstract

The importance of the intrauterine environment in 'fetal programming' and how this predicts, at a population level, the immediate and long term health of the next generation has been highlighted by international studies over the past two decades. Both low and high birth weight increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and other debilitating chronic diseases. Indigenous babies have comparatively high rates of both low and high birth weight.

A cross-sectional health survey of a group of 716 Indigenous women of childbearing age (15-34yrs) in 23 rural communities in North Queensland from 1999-2000, has revealed poor nutrition, high prevalence of central obesity and diabetes, and high rates of alcohol use and tobacco smoking. From the Queensland Health hospital in-patient database, it has been possible to identify and link 246 babies that have been born to the women in the above cohort between 1999 and 2007.

The proposed study aims to investigate the birth outcomes and early childhood development of the children. In addition the study aims to identify maternal predictors of birth outcomes thought to increase the risk of intergenerational cardiovascular and other chronic diseases, and highlight risk factors that are amenable to successful intervention among young Indigenous women in North Queensland.



Candidate

Mark Dallman

Supervisors

Dr David Evans
Dr Jane Warland

Title

To establish best practice for the identification and subsequent management of patients presenting to an acute medical ward with an episode of acute delirium

Abstract

Delirium, also known as acute confusion is an organic mental disorder characterized by acute onset, altered level of consciousness, fluctuating course and disturbances in orientation, memory, thought and behaviour. Delirium although fluctuating in nature, is often temporary.

Delirium is believed to be present in up to 30% of elderly patients presenting to hospital emergency departments and has a significant impact on their hospital journey. It has been widely established that although delirium is easily treated and managed and the symptoms can be promptly reversed, it is frequently misdiagnosed and subsequently poorly managed. This misdiagnosis leads to poor patient outcomes with an increase in length of hospital stay and increased likelihood of being involved in an adverse event.

The PhD study that is currently being developed aims to investigate whether acute delirium can be diagnosed in elderly people being admitted to hospital using established tested screening tools and effectively managed using accepted best practice protocols to minimise the impact on length of hospitalisation and on the incidence of adverse events. This presentation will present an overview of acute delirium, screening tools and best practice in the management of delirium in the hospitalised person.



Candidate

Helena de Anstiss

Supervisors

Dr Tahereh Ziaian
Associate Professor Peter Baghurst

Title

Refugee child and adolescent help-seeking for social, behavioural and mental health problems.

Abstract

A seeming consensus has emerged in Australia and other Western resettlement countries that many refugee children and adolescents with social, behavioural and mental health problems are not accessing mental health services. There is, however, very little refugee-specific, let alone child-specific, research in the area of help-seeking and service utilisation. Most research interest has centred on Western and, to a lesser extent, non-refugee ethnic minority adult populations. Moreover, informal help-seeking is rarely explored and most formal help-seeking research focuses on specialist mental health services and neglects the full range of service sectors and settings where mental health care is provided. This mixed-methods study investigated the informal and formal help-seeking rates and patterns of 550 refugee children and adolescents aged between 4 and 17 years from the former Republics of Yugoslavia, the Middle East, South Asia and Northern and Western Africa. This paper presents the key preliminary results of the study, with a particular focus on the qualitative findings of 13 focus groups with 85 adolescents from the above ethnic groupings. The qualitative findings reveal that refugee adolescents are very reluctant to venture beyond their close peer networks for help with their psychosocial problems due to a range of individual, cultural and service related barriers. The study has practical implications for policymakers, service planners and service providers seeking to improve access and equity in service provision to refugee populations.



Candidate

Shona Dove

Supervisors

Professor Eimear.Muir-Cochrane
Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

Title

Partnering choice: A critical ethnography of Continuity-of-Care
midwifery in South Australia

Abstract

Childbirth in western countries was progressively medicalised during the 20th century, moving into hospital so doctors could manage the risks of birth. This had profound consequences for women's experiences of pregnancy, labour and motherhood, for the midwives role and for cultural understanding of childbirth. Today, an unspoken guarantee of safe outcomes underpins Australian maternity services and has produced escalating intervention rates. This has prompted state and federal governments to seek reform and, although birthing knowledge held by those outside mainstream services is still largely viewed as a threat to safety, small changes in the way midwifery is taught and practiced have begun challenging the medicalised ideal.

This paper presents the findings from a critical ethnography of one such program in SA which employed Carspecken's (1996) adaptation of Habermasian critical social theory. The '*mother-midwife relationship*' emerged as the program's 'primary cultural narrative' (McLaren 1986) and from this a number of secondary narratives or themes were exemplified. Two of these will be presented in depth today - *keeping it normal* which, in addition to characterising care, involves the midwives and the women in actively resisting the marginalising of their knowledge by medical discourses of risk; and *making my own choices* which encapsulates the mutual endeavour involved in managing the resistance towards the program from mainstream services that works to constrain women's decision-making and care choices.



Candidate

David Foley

Supervisors

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

Title

Including people with an intellectual disability

Abstract

This study is investigating the emergency care delivered to people with an intellectual disability. Anecdotally it appears that people with an intellectual disability have difficulty making their needs known in an emergency department and so it was thought to be important to understand the issues in order to make recommendations to improve care. The study was originally constructed to interview people with an ID, review what was written about them in the hospital record and to question any accompanying carers. The data from these sources was to be triangulated in order to describe as complete a picture as possible. While there have been few attempts to interview people with an ID, it was believed that their perspective was worth collecting. It was anticipated that communication with these participants might prove difficult; however this was not the reason that this aspect of data collection had to be abandoned.

This presentation will:

- Describe the difficulties encountered in recruiting participants with an ID who could be interviewed.
- Summarise the information from the few interviews that occurred
- Outline the measures taken to continue this study and maintain its integrity



Candidate

Andrew Gardner

Supervisors

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Dr Maria Fedoruk

Title

Superficial supervision – Are we placing mental health professionals at risk?

Abstract

Mental health practitioners are exposed to intense levels of emotions in the work place. It has been suggested that problems involving therapeutic relationships and professional boundaries are an occupational hazard for mental health clinicians (Simon 1999). Anecdotally, there are many examples of clinicians who have breached the professional boundary in their clinical practice, resulting in a vulnerable client who would require additional counselling. Any professional who has compromised their practice by breaching a professional boundary may face a disciplinary process, and would require ongoing counselling and support.

Recent interdisciplinary research in the area of therapeutic relationships and professional boundaries is now discovering new themes not previously articulated. For example therapeutic friendliness; which describes how clinicians engage clients, therapeutic leverage; represents the way mental health practitioners work with clients during medium to long term rehabilitation, and superficial supervision; where clinicians are not engaging in thoughtful reflective supervision as their perceived difficulties have been resolved through informal conversations with their colleagues.

Whilst these concepts and their associated problems are being recognized by mental health professionals it is evident that some of the more subtle issues are not being discussed in clinical supervision; despite most mental health professionals identifying that clinical supervision is an important part of their professional development. This presentation will outline some emerging concepts from recent interdisciplinary research and will pose the question are we practicing superficial supervision which may place mental health professionals and clients at risk?



Candidate

Odette Gibson

Supervisors

Professor Leonie Segal
Dr Duncan Mortimer

Title

Evaluating performance of primary health care models in far North Queensland in managing people with chronic disease.

Abstract

A primary health care center is located within most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Far North Queensland. A community control governance structure is being implemented by the Cape York communities managed by their representative health body Apunipima who are working in partnership with key government and non-government stakeholders. Primary health care centers in the Torres Strait are administered under the Queensland State Health Act (ref). A commonality across these Far North Queensland communities is the Chronic Disease Management Framework. Evidence shows well managed diabetes can result in good intermediate clinical parameters, slowed micro and macro vascular disease progression and reduced diabetes-related hospitalisation. A key theme within the evidence are the enablers within the primary care health system and between this and the hospital services that assist and promote quality chronic disease management. Examples of enablers include a multi-disciplinary approach to managing diabetes at the primary care level, and referral pathways between primary, secondary and tertiary services. The uncertainty in health service delivery lies in our inability to clearly identify the impact such enablers have on our efforts as service providers to improve health outcomes.

This study aims to

- (i) identify the 'Gold Standard' system elements (enablers) required to provide comprehensive primary health care in the management of diabetes
- (ii) to objectively assess enablers that are currently available in several Far North Queensland primary health care services and
- (iii) explore the relationship between diabetes management at the primary health care level and hospital admissions, based on a program logic pathway of care and health outcomes. Of interest is a comparison between the services with and without system enablers.

This presentation introduces my topic and the preliminary work done so far.



Candidate

Anna Gregory

Supervisors

Professor Leonie Segal
Associate Professor Debbie Kralik

Title

Health system factors affecting quality of health care for older people living at home with chronic and complex care needs.

Abstract

PURPOSE: This study will explore and describe how health system factors affect quality of health care for older people living at home with chronic and complex care needs.

BACKGROUND: Health system factors are influential factors within the health care delivery system which are beyond the direct control of individual service providers. Addressing the needs of older people living at home with chronic and complex care needs is a high priority for clinical service providers and researchers. There are widely recognized problems with the quality of care for older people with complex care needs who require highly integrated health care delivery. Also, there is a gap in current knowledge about how health system factors affect quality of care for older people with complex care needs.

METHODS: This study will utilize a case study approach and purposive sampling to obtain viewpoints from three groups of participant informants: older people living at home with chronic and complex care needs; carers; and health care workers. Key informants will also be recruited. Data collection will principally involve semi-structured in-depth interviews; and collection of relevant documents such as policy and performance reports from health care agencies. Data analysis will utilize interpretive, thematic analysis of data from in-depth interviews to identify emergent themes. For analysis of documents, both interpretive, thematic analysis and content analysis will be performed. All data will be analyzed within a framework which describes quality dimensions for health system performance (effective; responsive; continuous; appropriate; accessible; capable; efficient; safe; sustainable).

Key words: 'health system'; quality; 'older people'; home; chronic; complex.



Candidate

Penny Kearney

Supervisors

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Dr Marie Heartfield

Title

Plotting storylines: working with narratives narratively

Abstract

Whilst there are many ways of interpreting stories, they can be broadly distinguished as 'analysis *of* narratives, and 'analysis *with* narratives. In contrast to thematic analysis where we interpret from categories running across stories, analysis *with* stories involves theorising from intact stories and interpreting them as a whole. This is referred to as narrative analysis. However, lack of precision about the meaning of narrative inquiry results in an attendant lack of specificity about its methods. In this context of mapped rather than standardised methods, my research task was to bring together procedures that would enable me to fulfil the purpose of my inquiry – an exploration of post-stroke transition – within a narrative epistemology.

I used a number of analytic strategies to convert participants' accounts into individual, evocative stories; to interpret and compare those stories; and subsequently, to synthesise them as an interpreted collective account of post-stroke transition. This presentation will focus on the use of storyline graphs that enabled me to plot narrative form and movement. Such plotting of storylines is a useful procedure for entering data and systematically exploring its temporal aspect which is integral to the concept of transition. Individual storyline graphs give visual shape to narratives in terms of backwards and forwards movement in time that show changing selves in a temporal context. When narrated events are plotted against these shifting storylines, factors that affect transition may be identified. The shapes of individual lives can be compared and data can be aggregated to analyse the process of transition.



Candidate

Ola Kutah

Supervisors

Dr Kay Price
Professor Helen McCutcheon

Title

Planning and implementing a Delphi Survey

Abstract

My doctoral research project is entitled 'Exploring how health literacy is understood by registered nurses' and is grounded in a primary health care perspective which I understand to be a certain way of thinking about health, health care, and health systems. Following a review of related literature, I have developed a Delphi survey to identify how a panel of experts related to paediatric and child and youth health, understand the concept of health literacy and the importance of this concept to clinical practice and to the health of children and young adults. I will present the recurring themes that emerged from the review of literature and discuss how these themes informed the development of the survey tool. In my presentation I will discuss the reasons why I decided to do a Delphi Survey and elaborate the process I went through to determine what statements to include or not include in the survey tool and who to include as 'experts'. I will present findings from my pilot project and explain the process for collecting and analysing data.



Candidate

Kim Milde

Supervisors

Dr Colleen Smith
Associate Professor Nicholas Procter

Title

Interpretations of learning in rehabilitation following spinal cord injury

Abstract

Research associated with rehabilitation following spinal cord injury has been explored from the perspective of practitioners, not that of patients. Research related to spinal cord injury has concentrated on the *science* of healing rather than the *experience* of healing.

This study is about understanding and the interpretations drawn from the experiences provided by patients following spinal cord injury. The analysis combines the twin processes of data arising from patient participants in combination with a deep exploration of my own understanding. This form of inter-subjective understanding is underpinned by philosophical hermeneutics and takes account of the way in which participants interact with the world. Arising out of this are several interpretive constructs from which nurses and patients can view their own understanding from a different perspective.

The hermeneutic task in this study, is to be able to describe the interpretation of the participant's experience of learning, in the context of nursing and rehabilitation and ultimately in a way in which people experiencing rehabilitation can find resonance with their own individual experience. Nursing's interface with this aspect of rehabilitation will be the focus of my presentation.

The presentation will also be concerned with the tenets of openness to another's understanding and interpretation as different to my own. This approach allows for analytical acknowledgment of the way in which historical and cultural understanding informs experience. In particular how events of the recent and distant past influence what we experience now and in the future.



Candidate

Christine Palmer

Supervisors

Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane
Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

Title

The relationship is central

Abstract

Despite the dominant biomedical approach to the treatment of mental disorder in acute psychiatric inpatient units today, working with people in the context of a relationship is central to the practice of mental health nurses working in this environment. In this age of technology and science, it is the relationship that is the enduring art of mental health nursing. The relationship extends beyond the person in care to include family/significant others so that the historical notion of 'the client' is no longer relevant. Mental health nurses also work with each other and with their colleagues from other disciplines inside a similar relationship. Interestingly, mental health nurses view essential relationship building skills as largely intrinsic and that they are enhanced through practise. It is the work itself that makes a good mental health nurse better.

This presentation reports on the findings of a critical ethnographic study designed to describe the culture of mental health nursing within an acute psychiatric inpatient unit. Three other themes linked to The Relationship as the central finding are Negotiating Power within the Team, Managing Risk, and Office Work as Clinical Work. Mental health nurses working within the acute psychiatric inpatient setting negotiate their practice within the context of a biomedically oriented service that dictates what legitimate mental illness is and how treatment is approached. Managing these conflicting forces is essential to continuing the art of mental health nursing.



Candidate

Desrae Parker

Supervisors

Dr Lynne Barnes
Dr Marie Heartfield

Title

Sexual health training and the disability worker

Abstract

Professionals and disability service providers have come under pressure to address the complex issues associated with the sexual health of people with intellectual disabilities. A number of strategies are implemented to provide intellectual disability workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to take up a sexual health role(s). Research has established the importance of training for workers in sexual health and identified the significant role they play in the lives of the people they work with. However, these factors are rarely addressed in relation to each other. Intellectual disability workers continue to seek outside 'experts' to address sexual health issues of clients or seem to ignore this area of people's lives.

My research aims to explore and examine intellectual disability sexual health training and how it shapes the role and practice of disability workers. Data collection techniques of non participant observation; semi structured interviews and written documents were used to generate textual data. The focus of this presentation is to provide an outline of findings from preliminary analysis of semi-structured interview data.



Candidate

Craig Phillips

Supervisors

Professor Adrian Esterman
Dr Colleen Smith
Associate Professor Amanda Kenny

Title

Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition

Abstract

Many Australian undergraduate nursing students undertake paid employment whilst they are completing their pre-registration nursing degrees. The choices of paid employment vary, and may include health care settings or areas such as the hospitality and retail sectors. Evidence suggests that the primary reason why undergraduate students seek employment is financial (AIHW, 2006); however, there may be a number of other reasons why students work.

Little is known about pre-registration employment choice and the impact on graduate nurse transition to registered nurse practice. Utilising an exploratory mixed method design (Creswell 2002), this PhD study aims to identify if there is a relationship between undergraduate nursing students paid employment choices and transition to registered nurse practice. This presentation will provide an overview of the study including progress to date, and will comment on preliminary analysis of the data arising from seven focus group interviews with graduate nurses.



Candidate

Jacinta Secomb

Supervisors

Dr Colleen Smith
Dr. Kate Andre
Professor Adrian Esterman

Title

Pilot studies a research process necessity

Abstract

The first goal of any research process is to exemplify the researcher's actions and methods used in the inquiry. This presentation provides a descriptive analysis of the outcomes of the pilot study process and argues its necessity in mixed method research. It reports on a pilot study that has established a framework for two subsequent studies that follow a logical sequence of mixed methods. This paper describes a multifaceted approach to an external pilot study. Information obtained during the pilot study on the accuracy of data in the intended population and the primary outcome measure, have been used with existing research to calculate sample size and method of randomization in the subsequent trial. The instrument and qualitative study interview guide have been tested for content validity on Australian undergraduate student nursing populations. Results from hypothesis testing and the interview guide have not been included as they are preliminary and have been interpreted with caution.

This presentation discusses both theoretical aspects of, and the researcher's experiences in conducting a pilot study and its projected effect on the subsequent larger studies.

Key words: Pilot study; mixed research methods; recruitment; interview guide; instrument testing; randomization; simulation; clinical decision making.



Candidate

Heidi Silverston

Supervisors

Professor Leonie Segal
Professor Helen McCutcheon
Associate Professor Pat Buckley

Title

Leadership development and healthy workplaces

Abstract

Leadership development is frequently proposed as the solution to a variety of complex problems in the healthcare sector, including health workforce shortages and imperatives to improve the safety and quality of healthcare services. Relatively little is known however, about the efficacy of leadership development as an intervention to solve these problems.

Studies looking at outcomes of leadership development programs commonly focus on the individual and are frequently based on self reported data. Employers and funders of such programs however, seek evidence of organisational or system level impact in order to substantiate the significant financial investment such interventions require.

This study will examine what, if any, outcomes of a leadership development initiative influence the individual, the healthcare unit, the organisation and ultimately, the recipients of healthcare services.

This presentation will discuss pre-proposal developmental work looking at the relationship between leadership and the concept of the healthy work environment, and its potential as a means of assessing the efficacy of a leadership development program for nurses and midwives.



Candidate

Sandra Ullrich

Supervisors

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Dr Barbara Parker

Title

Investigating nutritional care in nursing practice within a residential aged facility: An action research approach

Abstract

Despite being preventable and treatable inadequate nutrition remains a problem for many older people within health care organisations. Many organisations function under outdated and inappropriate organisational structures for 21st century healthcare, never-the-less many health care organisations are uniquely positioned to implement solutions that will lead to better care.

It is therefore important for researchers to understand and explain the relationships between systems and organisation and the provision of care (particularly nursing care) in order to assist nurses to ensure that the way their organisations function contributes to the quality of care.

This presentation provides information on some of the practical issues that were involved in conducting an action research study within a residential aged care facility. The processes and outcomes involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the 'Protected Mealtimes' initiative including some of the systems issues that were confronted will be presented from the perspective of two action research groups.



Candidate

Ava Deborah Walsh

Supervisors

Professor Jan Pincombe
Dr Ann Henderson

Title

Attitudes and directives used by maternity staff to describe baby friendly accreditation in Australia

Abstract

The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) is a formal framework which consists of ten steps to promote and support breastfeeding within maternity services (WHO/UNICEF). Baby friendly accreditation has demonstrated an increase in breastfeeding rates within hospitals. This may be in part due to formal breastfeeding policy providing a framework so that consistent advice is given to breastfeeding women and their families. It is unclear to what extent staff in Australian maternity hospitals have reacted to the BFHI.

The study's main purpose was to examine current breastfeeding policies, practices and routines within Australian maternity hospitals. Today's presentation focuses on Stage One; the attitudes held by hospital staff towards baby friendly accreditation. Six focus groups were conducted of staff in baby friendly accredited and non accredited hospitals. Focus groups were audiotaped, transcribed verbatim and coded using approaches from Miles and Huberman, Patton and Bryman. NVivo 7 was used primarily to organise the transcriptions whereupon emerging themes and user attitudes were identified. Responses from the focus group interviews were used to inform the main study questionnaire (Stage 3).

Interim results revealed maternity hospitals require additional support to facilitate baby friendly accreditation. This applies to accredited and non accredited hospitals. All staff reported that their hospital is working towards implementing some of the ten steps to successful breastfeeding and overall this is a desirable outcome. However, a lack of support to fund a "driver", the inability to complete breastfeeding education and a bottle feeding culture were areas of difficulty. Attitudes held by midwives, doctors, parents, administration and the community demonstrated user fit issues. Terminology such as "mother unfriendly" could be an outcome related to change management problems.

Those hospitals that achieved baby friendly accreditation status demonstrated a high level of strategy and personal commitment by key players that sets them apart from other maternity services. Relying upon maternity hospitals volunteering to become baby friendly accredited has not seen uptake flourish.



Candidate

Diane Wright

Supervisors

Professor Jan Pincombe
Dr Robyn Nayda

Title

Challenges of field research

Abstract

Midwifery practice has been described as seeking to foster professionally democratic and social models of care in which women may achieve a greater sense of control and input. Whilst many midwife academics and clinicians have described this relationship between women and midwives being most evident in midwife led models of care, little is known about midwives in public hospital clinic situations. (Homer 2000; Pairman and McAra-Couper 2006; Wilkins 2000) In this exploratory study I sought to investigate how midwives working in hospital based antenatal clinics reconcile a social model of care with a dominant medical model.

In this focused ethnography a number of methods have been utilised in the exploration of this topic. My presentation will focus on one of the data collection methods I am currently using. Non - participant observation seeks to understand the nature of the mother-midwife relationship in hospital based antenatal clinics. Watching, listening and recording events in the "Real Life" situation are frequently used methods of data collection in naturalistic inquiry (Depoy & Gitlin 2005) particularly an ethnographic inquiry (Hammersley & Atkinson 2008, de Laine 1997) where observational data is used, along with interview and artefacts, to gain a deep understanding of the phenomena.

Before approaching or entering "the field" the investigator needs to engage in detailed planning and preparation. (Hammersley & Atkinson 2008, de Laine 1997; Russell 1999). Nonetheless, the realities of gaining access, recruitment and the actual act of observing held many surprises. This presentation presents my experiences with the realities of observation.

