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Supporting Undergraduate Nursing Students: Who is Responsible?

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Learning Objective 1: The learner will be able to understand their roles and responsibilities to undergraduate nursing students undertaking clinical experiences.

Learning Objective 2: The learner will be able to gain a global perspective of the expectation of Registered Nurses to support nursing students undertaking clinical experiences.

Purpose:

The purpose of this research was to undertake an in-depth analysis of Registered Nurses' understandings of their responsibilities to nursing students as part of their annual license to practice, particularly within the framework of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) competency standards.

Methods:

Grounded theory methodology was used for this research. In depth semi-structured interview methods were used by the researcher in order to gather comprehensive information from the participants.

Results:

The sample group for this study was made up of Registered Nurses who had been practising for at least 5 years. This criteria ensured that the Registered Nurse participants were those clinicians who are likely to have had previous experience with BN students. The results established that although the participants had an inherent belief that they should support students, the participants in this research were not aware of the competency requirement to support nursing students.

Conclusion:

Registered Nurses do provide support nursing students however they are not aware of their specific obligation and professional responsibility to students under the ANMC competency standards.

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