

WELCOME TO HELSINKI, FINLAND

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1st European Conference of Mental Health Nursing

Collaborating Practice and Research



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International expectations: mental health nurses providing professional development and support to baccalaureate degree nursing students

Anderson, Carina, RN, BN, PhD (cand), Noosavill, Qld Australia

Moxham, Lorna, RN, PhD, MEd. Professor, Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health, University of Wollongong

Broadbent, Marc, RN, MEd, PhD (cand), Noosavill, Qld Australia

Background

To ensure that future mental health nurses are competent practitioners, nursing knowledge needs to be passed from current practicing mental health nurses to nursing students while they learn and practise their craft within their clinical area. The role the mental health nurse has in ensuring clinical competence and instilling confidence in students is an integral part of the success of the future mental health nursing workforce. Internationally countries such as Finland, New Zealand, Ireland and the United Kingdom also all have competency standards for the registered nurse which specifically state that registered nurses are required to support baccalaureate degree nursing students. In fact the International Council of Nurses Framework of Competencies for the Generalist Nurse also states that registered nurses are required to support students. Registered nurses practicing in mental health are required to practice under the same standards as a generalist registered nurse. It is imperative therefore, that mental health nurses are aware of their obligations to engage in the professional development of nursing students. Data from interviews was analysed and will be presented. This presentation will explore the international expectation that registered nurses practicing as mental health nurses have a responsibility to provide professional development and support to baccalaureate degree nursing students undertaking clinical experiences based in findings from this research.

Method

A grounded theory methodology framed the research design. In-depth, semi structured individual interviews elicited information regarding registered nurses understanding of their responsibilities to baccalaureate nursing students.

Results

A number of emerging concepts have arisen as a result of data analysis. This presentation will focus on the emerging concept which suggests that registered nurses believe they have a responsibility to the profession but are not aware how such a responsibility is embedded within their practice license.

Conclusions

Registered nurses including mental health nurses believe they have a professional and moral obligation to support students. Although registered nurses practicing as mental health nurses in Australia believe they should support baccalaureate nursing students they are unfamiliar that nursing standards under which they practice their craft specifically state that they must provide professional development and teaching to baccalaureate nursing students.

Keywords Student, responsibility, competence

Aim

The aim of this research was to examine registered nurses' understanding of their responsibilities towards baccalaureate nursing students.