

A PROGRAM OF PRIMARY CARE NURSING RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



- Primary care nursing workforce
- Chronic disease and lifestyle risk factor reduction
- Mixed methods research



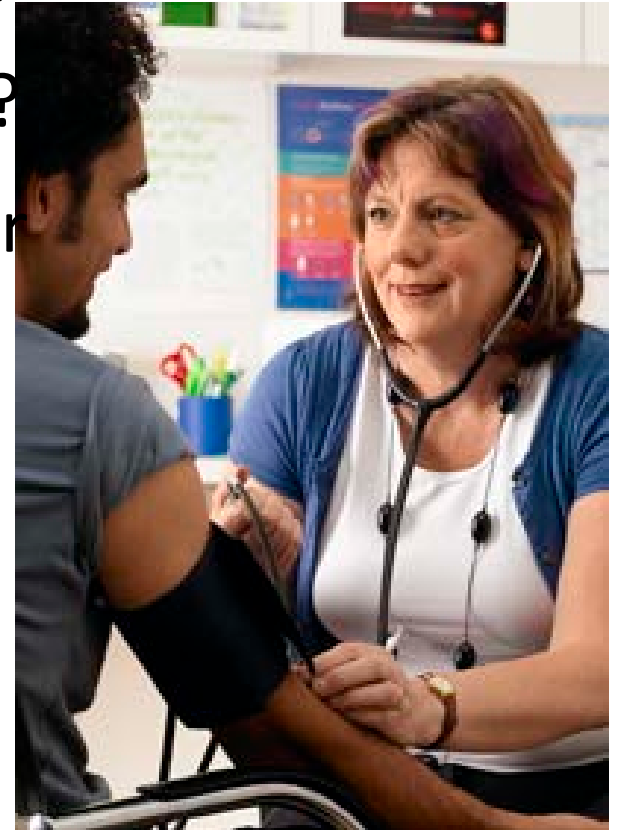
AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY CARE



- Combination of small businesses owned by General practitioners and corporate chains.
- Visits are funded by Medicare and some co-payments from patients.
- Historically, medical model with a few nurses who were the GPs wife or admin / nurse.
- 2003 - 2,349 general practice nurses.
- 2018 - >12,000 general practice nurses.

PRIMARY CARE NURSE WORKFORCE

- Who are general practice nurses?
- What roles are they undertaking?
- What is helping or hindering their practice?
- What are their education needs?
- What are the working conditions like?



KEY WORKFORCE FINDINGS

- Nurses predominately older.
- Perceived as a pre-retirement role.
- Roles impacted by funding of specific items of service.
- GPs had limited understanding of the nurses scope of practice.
- Workplace conditions are a facilitator and barrier.



PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STANDARDS

- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation.
- Developed from 14 focus groups, stakeholder consultation, two rounds online survey and expert workshop.
- Define the roles of Enrolled, Registered and Advanced Registered nurses.
- Tool for performance assessment & professional development.



<http://anmf.org.au/pages/competency-standards>

PRIMARY CARE NURSE WORKFORCE

- What are the workforce trends?
- Why do experienced nurses move to PHC?
- Can new graduates work here?
- Are they satisfied at work?
- What impacts satisfaction?
- Will they stay or go?



UNDERGRADUATE CLINICAL PLACEMENT

- Students infrequently placed in general practice.
- Sought perspectives of mentors and students.
- Students often gained skills from the experience.
- Students surprised at the GPN role.
- Mentors happy to support students but faced barriers around time



NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

“it was something different every day. They say on a ward you see something different every day, but I actually saw something diversely different every single day. It was fantastic.” NG03

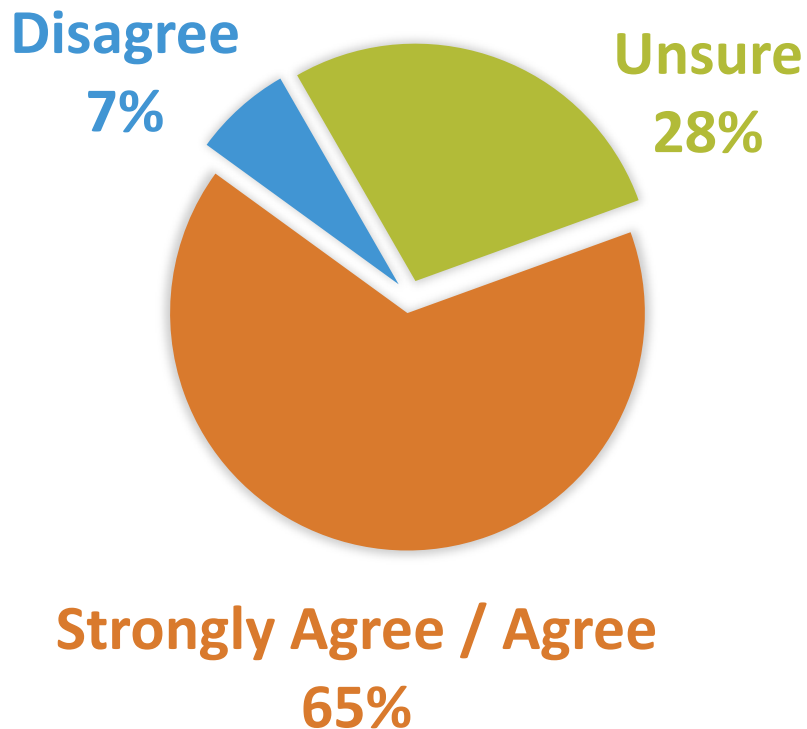
“the only reason I'd want to be in a hospital is to make more money.” NG02

“general practice is often viewed not in a positive light.. It's like the place that nurses go to die or to end their careers... I definitely didn't feel that way at all. I felt like I was using my skills... and my knowledge”. NG07

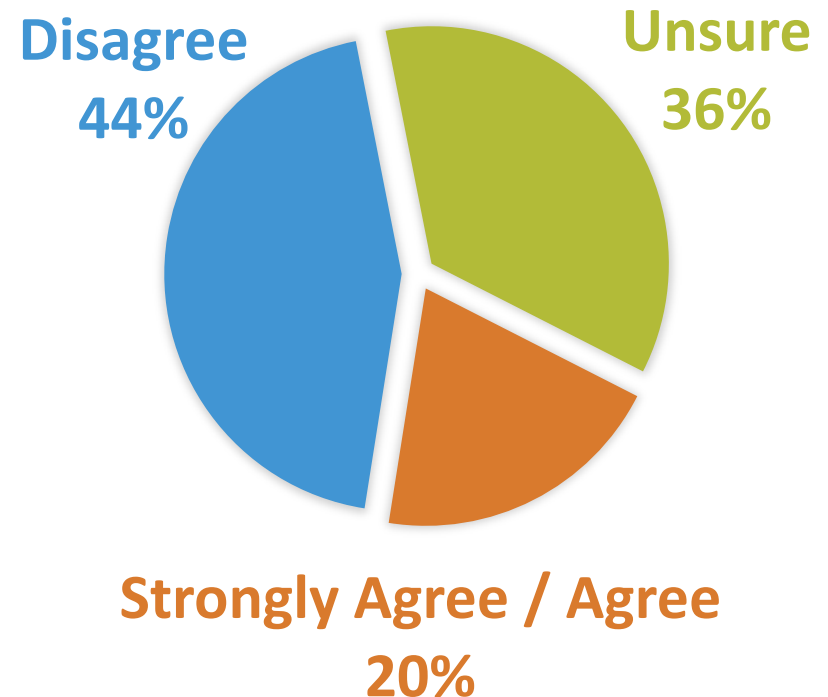
“I think I'm better today - better where I work now because of those skills. I wouldn't trade that for anything”. NG08

CAREER INTENTION

It is my intention to continue with my nursing career in general practice in the foreseeable future.

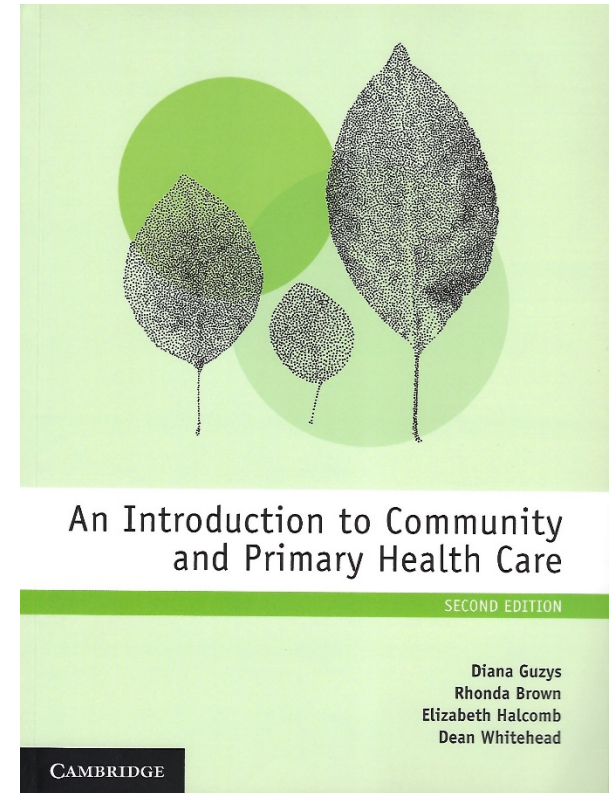


I would like to find other employment by leaving general practice nursing.



PROMOTING PHC NURSING

- Many nurses & nurse academics are not aware of the primary care nurse role.
- There is a need to promote the role within and beyond the profession.



CHRONIC DISEASE & LIFESTYLE RISK

- Health needs are changing.
- There is a need to focus on preventative health.
- Nurses in general practice are ideal to work in this area.
 - prolonged engagement
 - skills in self-management education, communication, and behaviour change.

CONSUMER SATISFACTION

- Consumers are happy to receive services from a nurse.
- Some lack of awareness about who the nurse is and the scope of their role.
- Want security of GP oversight.
- Similar findings in Australia & New Zealand.



QUIT IN GP TRIAL



- RCT of nurse-led smoking cessation.
- 101 practices in Sydney & Melbourne.
- 2390 smokers.
- Only 43% in the PN intervention group attended to see the nurse.
- Patients who received partial or complete PN support were more likely to report sustained abstinence (OR 2.27 / 5.34).



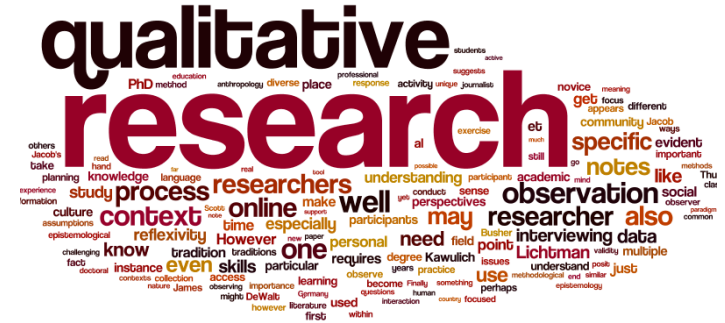
IMPRESS TRIAL



- Before & after study of nurse-led hypertension management.
- 82 patients.
- Mean ↓14.5mmHg systolic, ↓7mmHg diastolic BP.
- Significant decreases in mean weight (1.3 kg), BMI (0.5 kg/m²) and waist circumference (1.9 cm).
- Adherence to BP treatment significantly improved (P = 0.01).
- Currently recruiting for an RCT.



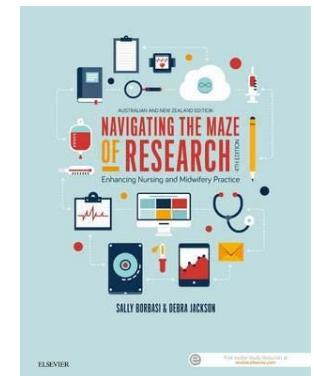
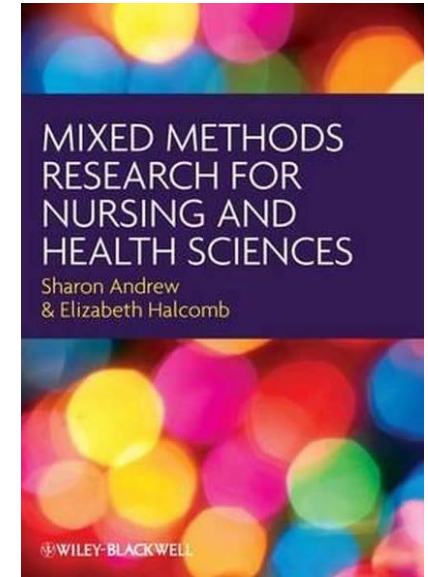
MIXED METHODS RESEARCH



- Appropriate for investigating complex problems.
- More than just combining qual & quant in a single study.
- As a profession we need to invest in the development of methodologies that inform our practice.

MIXED METHODS RESEARCH

- Translation of mixed methods work into nursing and the health sciences.
- Methods of integrating qual and quant.
- Appraising mixed methods research.
- Using mixed methods within doctoral research.



NURSE RESEARCHER

- Focuses on research methodology, methods, analysis, research training / careers.
- Target audience: Nurse and health professional researchers.
- Many authors are research students, doctoral candidates or early career researchers.



