Australian College of Nursing

4th HISTORY CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 2019

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, Tasmania

THE POWER OF HISTORY – NURSING NOW

PROGRAM

www.acn.edu.au/event/acf-history-conference
GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE AND TIME
The ACN 4th History Conference will be held on Tuesday 20 August 2019 from 8:00am – 5:00pm.

VENUE
Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart,
1 Davey Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Further details:
www.grandchancellorhotels.com/hotel-grand-chancellor-hobart

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF NURSING (ACN)
The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is the pre eminent and national leader of the nursing profession and a community of dynamic and passionate nurses. ACN is committed to advancing nurse leadership to enhance the health care of all Australians.

Further information:
www.acn.edu.au

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
ACN Member registration $100.00 inc. GST
Non-Member registration $180.00 inc. GST

Register online:
www.acn.edu.au/events/history-conference-2019

ORGANISING COMMITTEE
Conference Committee:
Marilyn Gendek FACN, Chair
Dr Lesley Potter FACN
Dr Gillian Ray-Barruel MACN
Dr Julie Bradshaw MACN
Professor Linda Shields FACN

Abstract Review Team:
Dr Gillian Ray-Barruel MACN
Ms Cathy Maginnis MACN
Ms Jennifer Rabach FACN
Dr Caroline Adams PHA
Ms Tiffany McKay MACN ENL
Ms Melissa Haydock MACN ENL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) 4th History Conference – The Power of History – Nursing Now builds on a strong commitment to showcasing how the profession and its many contexts have developed over time.

The members of the predecessors of the ACN – The Royal College of Nursing Australia and The College of Nursing (NSW) – laid foundations with history events over many decades.

The ACN inaugural history conference in 2012 reflected the unification of the two Colleges with the theme “Threads that Bind”. The 2nd History Conference in 2015 focused on “Disrupting Discourses: New views on nursing history”.

The program for the 4th History Conference – “The Power of History – Nursing Now”, follows immediately on the success of the 3rd History conference held in 2018. It will present research on historical and personal perspectives related to nursing and its broader contexts. It will explore the complexities and differences of the past that have shaped the nursing profession.

It will appeal to a broad audience including nurses and other health professionals, historians, ACN members and non-members, clinicians and academics.
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<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
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| 8:45am| **Session 1**  
**Tradition and testimony: Building knowledge**                     |
| 8:45am| The military nursing tradition: The Vietnam War nurses | Dr Janice Twomey MACN                                               |
| 9:45am| Creating historiography of Indigenous Australian nurses 1890–1950 | Dr Odette Best MACN                                                 |
| 10:15am| Book Launch: Behind the Lamp | Professor Christine Duffield FACN                                    |
| 10:20am| Morning tea                                                           |
| 10:45am| **Session 2**  
**Specialisation: Shaping nursing now**                             |
| 10:45am| The nursing history of an early parenting organisation in Western Australia over 120 years | Dr Elaine Bennett MACN                                              |
| 11:15am| Isolating nurses in infectious diseases wards. Practice in the years between 1850 and 1950 | Dr Karen Daws MACN                                                  |
| 11:45am| Mental health nursing history: uncovering its roots in asylum histories | Dr Julie Bradshaw MACN                                              |
| 12:15pm| The rise in cardiac catheterisation | Mrs Elizabeth Curtis                                                |
| 12:45pm| Lunch                                                                |
| 1:45pm| **Session 3**  
**Encounters: Crafting nursing ethics**                             |
| 1:45pm| Nursing ethics caught or taught? What did it mean for nurse leaders then and what does it mean now? | Dr Lexie Brans FACN                                                  |
| 2:15pm| A brief history of bullying in nursing. Battles, bullies and some not very pleasant people | Dr David Stanley MACN MA                                              |
| 2:45pm| Nurses in a Nazi baby farm | Professor Linda Shields FACN                                         |
| 3:15pm| Afternoon tea                                                         |
| 3:45pm| **Session 4**  
**Transitions: Policy change and its impact**                        |
| 3:45pm| ‘Only fully trained people should be looking after patients’: A historical study of nursing education transition in Queensland | Ms Penny Harrison                                                 |
| 4:15pm| Tasmanian Nurse Practitioners changing the health care landscape | Dr Michelle Woods (TAS) and Ms Hazel Bucher MACN                    |
| 4:45pm| Summation and Evaluations                                             |
| 5:00pm| Conference close                                                      |
THE MILITARY NURSING TRADITION: THE VIETNAM WAR NURSES

Dr Janice Twomey MACN

Our present is shaped by history; Australian history for Australians and in particular those Australians who participated in overseas wars. This paper will explore the history of Australian nurses in war and the way that service elucidated seven essential elements of a nursing code. It will focus upon the experiences of two groups of nurses who served in the Vietnam War, the members of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) and the women who volunteered as members of the civilian and surgical teams, who served in Vietnam under the humanitarian aid clause of the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO).

There were two methods used in this research. The first method used empirical evidence in the form of published works, government reports and archival sources, mainly from the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and Department of External Affairs (DEA). The first method provided context for a description of an emerging tradition associated with military nursing, and a framework for the analysis of the experiences of the nurses in Vietnam. The second method involved oral testimonies from 31 participants of the Vietnam War. Their stories provided the focal point for this research.

The presence of civilian aid nurses in Vietnam raised a question concerning a nursing tradition that historians have identified within the Australian military. In Vietnam, however, it was the first time a large group of Australian civilian nurses (210) had served in an overseas region of conflict, but the histories, except one, and the Australian government saw only the nurses in the armed forces as part of the military structure, and the civilian aid nurses distinct from that structure. This paper argues that the attitudes, working conditions and experiences of both groups of nurses, particularly the civilian aid nurses reflected the experiences of nurses in past wars in perpetuating a military nursing tradition.

This research concludes with the findings, that in Vietnam the attitudes and responses to nursing in a war zone might not simply have been a nursing tradition associated with the military, but was more a general response of nurses to their work in areas of conflict, sometimes with little regard for age, race, or enemy affiliation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Janice Twomey MACN
Retired High School Teacher, and former Nurse and Practice Manager of Physician’s Practice

Dr Jan Twomey is a retired High School Teacher of senior history. She is a member of the Australian College of Nursing and the Australian Historical Association. Her specific on-going research interests refer to nursing and Southeast Asia. In 1967, as a professional nursing sister she served in the USAID team in Vientiane, Laos, caring for the local population.
ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1:
TRADITION AND TESTIMONY: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
8:45AM – 10:15AM

SEPARATION. THE EXPERIENCE OF NURSING EDUCATION AND PRACTICE IN AUSTRALIA 1964–1994: AN AUTOETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

Dr Lesley Siegloff FACN

AIMS AND FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH:
This presentation will share the outcomes of a research study focusing on the evolution of nursing education over the first thirty-year period of the presenter’s journey through nursing and nursing education, 1964–1994, juxtaposed against the history and some traditions that have shaped nursing education in Australia.

AIMS:
• Identifying what new perspectives of nursing education my personal story reveals about nursing and nursing education in Australia during the period 1964 to 1994,
• Gaining an understanding of how pre-registration nursing education has been shaped over the period of my personal nursing education experience, taking into account the social, political and professional activities occurring during this time.

METHOD AND SOURCES:
Autoethnography, which allows the researcher to tell their story and to juxtapose it against other sources, was the methodology and method used. Besides the personal stories that evolved through the autoethnographic method other data sources drawn on included personal collected material, nursing and other literature, as well as national and state archival material.

KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
will include, an overview of the autoethnographic method, research discussion, address the five outcomes identified through this research and share the recommendations. The outcomes include an identification of ‘a separation of nursing education and nursing practice context’ at the time of transition to higher education. The impact of this separation still resonates today and will be addressed.

CONCLUSION:
This research approach has proven to be effective in illuminating the changes in nursing education. It revealed new insights into the processes of change that influenced the development of nursing education, missed opportunities for collaboration and possible solutions to the separation of nursing education from health care delivery that we experience in the current system.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Lesley Siegloff FACN
Nursing and Aged Care, Leadership, Management and Education Consulting Services
Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Flinders University

Lesley graduated in 1967. She has held director of nursing and consulting positions in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Indonesia and academic roles in Ballarat and Bendigo including 10 years as Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean Practice Development, Flinders University, she retired in 2016. Currently consulting in the aged care sector. She chairs the new Flinders University history of the nursing education committee.
CREATING HISTORIOGRAPHY OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN NURSES 1890–1950

Dr Odette Best MACN

AIMS AND FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH:
The historiography of Indigenous nurses certainly within Australia is yet to be fully realized. There is a dearth of research, publication or interrogation as to why this is the positioning of such rich and complex histories.

The purpose of this research is twofold. Firstly, it outlines the unique challenges of creating a developing historiography of Indigenous nurses and midwives. In part it details the agentic strategies exercised by individual Hospital and State Legislations impacting Indigenous women in meeting individual, institutional and ideological challenges set by the context and place.

Secondly, it makes visible Indigenous women’s contributions to the nursing and midwifery professions as an intercept to historical discourses that have rendered these ethnographies invisible. This is presented through the lens of an Indigenous nurse historian.

METHODS AND/OR SOURCES:
The methodology of social history is used in this research. Primary sources include Matrons notes, personnel files, letters and official government files and records from the Australian Department of Native Affairs and Department of Home and Health. Secondary sources included interviews with Indigenous Australian women involved in nursing and midwifery.

KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
There are significant challenges in creating this historiography. What is obvious are the consistent barriers of race, ethnicity and the harsh exclusionary Acts of Administration and their legislative powers such as protectionism and segregation has impacted on Aboriginal women in their pursuits of western nursing qualifications.

CONCLUSION:
The history of Indigenous Australian nurses and midwives is a rich and new area of nursing and midwifery historiography that is yet to be fully actualised.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr Odette Best MACN
Associate Professor, School of Nursing and Midwifery University of Southern Queensland

Odette is a multi-lined Aboriginal woman who is a registered nurse and currently Associate Professor, School of Nursing and Midwifery, USQ. Odette undertook a PhD uncovering six decades of Aboriginal women as registered nurses 1950–2005 and was conferred in 2012. Since then Odette has sought to uncover and highlight the labour force history of Aboriginal women as nurses and midwives.
SESSION 2: SPECIALISATION: SHAPING NURSING NOW
10:45AM – 12:45PM

THE NURSING HISTORY OF AN EARLY PARENTING ORGANISATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA OVER 120 YEARS

Dr Elaine Bennett MACN

BACKGROUND:
This study was the first phase of a larger study which explored the past, present and future of nursing in early parenting services in Australia.

AIM:
The aim of this presentation is to describe the history of nursing within a not for profit, parenting and early childhood service in Western Australia (WA).

METHODS:
Triangulation of multiple data sources were used to summarise the nursing role over 120 years. The history was discovered through a document analysis of archives, including oral histories, organisational documents, focus groups, nurses’ diaries and interviews with nurses.

FINDINGS:
The nursing role and context is described over three time periods: 1890–1960; 1960–1990 and 1990–2010. Nursing during the 20th century was influenced by societal and policy changes but the essence of nursing remained the same with a focus on providing support and education to parents during pregnancy and caring for their babies and young children.

Nursing within early parenting up to the 1980s was reasonably static until the move from hospital based training to the University sector which was the turning point of change to a new era of professionalism and ultimately working within an interdisciplinary team.

CONCLUSION:
This description of nursing history within one early parenting service has provided insight into this specialist area of child and family health nursing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr Elaine Bennett MACN
Director Research, Ngala

Elaine has been Director Services and more recent years the Director Research at Ngala, WA for 13 years. Ngala is a not-for-profit parenting and early childhood organisation. During this time has developed a research agenda with strong links to university partners. Prior to Ngala worked in a variety of management and leadership roles in government which included managing hospitals and community and child health services in remote northwest of WA and Tasmania.

Over recent years Elaine has focused on “implementation science” and the need to understand what works in service delivery; the engagement of fathers and Aboriginal families.
SESSION 2: SPECIALISATION: SHAPING NURSING NOW  
10:45AM – 12:45PM

ISOLATING NURSES IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES WARDS. PRACTICE IN THE YEARS BETWEEN 1850 AND 1950

Dr Karen Daws MACN

FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH:
There is evidence of the provision of wards for infectious diseases at hospitals in Victoria from about the 1860s; they proliferated from the 1880s and by 1889 about half of the 43 hospitals in Victoria had infectious diseases wards. These facilities almost always included quarters for staff, which enforced their segregation from other staff and the wider community, implicating the bodies of staff in the transmission of disease. This strategy reflected the practical understanding of disease transmission from person to person as well as nineteenth century conceptions of disease. From the beginning of the twentieth century increased understanding of infectious diseases did not substantially alter prohibitions on nurses caring for patients with infectious diseases, who continued to be isolated with their patients until the 1940s.

METHODS:
Using architectural historical methods, including examination of documents, building plans and extant structures, I examine staff quarters at infectious diseases wards built at hospitals in Victoria between 1850 and 1950 to elicit the ideas and practices that framed their design.

KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
In this presentation I will focus on the buildings for infectious diseases and the spaces within which they were provided, and influenced the location, design, materials and spatial arrangements of these wards.

CONCLUSION:
During a period when the germ theory of disease was increasingly accepted and advances in epidemiology and bacteriology led to the identification of distinct diseases, isolation practices that implicated bodies in disease transmission persisted. This suggests that the practice of containing infectious diseases by isolation of patients and nurses was influenced by tacit and practical conceptions of infectious diseases transmission, which continued alongside the advances in understanding of infectious disease behaviour.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr Karen Daws MACN  
Practice Development Nurse, St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne

Karen Daws is a registered nurse with a background in cardiac education, research and practice; outside of work one of her diversions is architectural history. Professionally one of Karen’s main areas of interests is around factors influencing practice. These seemingly disparate elements converged in a PhD in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Melbourne investigating the political, scientific and social influences on the number and type of buildings provided for infectious diseases in Victoria between 1850 and 1950.
MENTAL HEALTH NURSING HISTORY: UNCOVERING ITS ROOTS IN ASYLUM HISTORIES

Dr Julie Bradshaw MACN

AIM:
To uncover stories of nurses and attendants employed at Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum 1865-1869 that demonstrate the unique roots of mental health nursing.

METHODS AND/OR SOURCES:
Historical research drawn from a completed PhD.

KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
The uniqueness of mental health nursing history lies in its inextricable link with asylum history. Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum, Queensland’s first institution for those with mental health issues, serves as a case study to demonstrate this association. Woogaroo, similar to other colonial asylums was geographically isolated and self-supporting. Staff were obliged to live and work alongside their patients and required to seek permission to leave the asylum to visit friends and family. The asylum had many functions. It served to contain and treat those deemed insane. It also provided a sanctuary for those affected by social issues such as drunkenness and domestic violence and a place of recovery for those suffering from the shear hardship of colonial life. Many were admitted with physical illnesses or became physically ill, and for those, the asylum was a place of healing or, at other times, palliative care. Ostensibly, nurses’ and attendants’ roles focused on ensuring institutional routines were followed, that the asylum was self-sufficient and that the needs of the diverse patient population were met. However, the stories uncovered in this history demonstrated much more. It showed asylum staff fostering a community where the vulnerable experienced sanctuary and a sense of belonging and. It also showed staff exercising humanity in a highly punitive and regimented environment.

CONCLUSION:
The unique history of mental health nursing lies in its asylum origins.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Julie Bradshaw MACN
Deputy Dean, School of Nursing Midwifery and Social Sciences, CQUniversity

Julie has a long history with mental health nursing. She began mental health nursing in the mid-1980s. Later moving to mental health nursing education, Julie found that she could share her passion through education. While now employed as Deputy Dean she is also Head of Course for postgraduate mental health nursing education, and is still able to inspire fellow mental health nurses. Julie’s love of mental health nursing history was realised when she undertook a PhD and explored the beginnings of the first lunatic asylum in Queensland.
THE RISE IN CARDIAC CATHETERISATION

Mrs Elizabeth Curtis
Co-Authors – Professor Ritin Fernandez, Professor Tracey Moroney MACN, Dr Astin Lee

AIM:
Nursing continues to develop and evolve in line with medical and technological advancements. The aim of this paper is to review current progress in relation to coronary artery catheterisation in Australia and how this has impacted on the development of interventional cardiovascular nursing.

METHOD AND RESULTS:
Historical methods were utilised including both primary and secondary sources. Cardiovascular nursing has emerged as a vital specialty area in Australia with coronary artery disease having a significant impact on the health care system. Coronary catheterisation and interventions are currently the gold standard for diagnosis and management of patients with coronary artery disease and has been conducted globally for the past 80 years. The history of coronary angiography extends to over five decades in Australia. It was first performed in Australia in 1962 by Dr Benness at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney. Since then as a result of continuing research, technological and medication-related advancements, there have been numerous changes in technique, materials used, indications for the procedure, and safety. These have resulted in reduced complication rates, increased patient satisfaction and an increase in the number of procedures carried out and has moulded the development of nursing roles and educational needs.

CONCLUSION:
It is essential for nursing staff to ensure that they remain up to date with advancing technologies and practices in the cardiac catheter laboratory, while benefits from specialised nurse training in cardiac catheter laboratories is evident the availability of such programs run external to the hospital setting remains scarce.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mrs Elizabeth Curtis
PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong

Elizabeth Curtis is a lecturer at The University of Wollongong with the school of nursing. Elizabeth has over 10 years of experience in cardiac nursing and is currently undertaking a PhD on medications for radial artery spasm during transradial procedures.
**NURSING ETHICS CAUGHT OR TAUGHT? WHAT DID IT MEAN FOR NURSE LEADERS THEN AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN NOW?**

**Dr Lexie Brans FACN**

**AIMS AND FOCUS:**
The evolution of nursing from Nightingale’s time to its current status as a secular profession has had a marked influence on the understanding of (nursing) ethics as a way of ‘doing’ nursing and of understanding nursing, especially at the leadership level. In turn that has influenced how and where (nursing) ethics is taught relative to codes of nursing ethics.

**METHOD AND OR SOURCES:**
The qualitative research methodology of philosophical analysis uses published sources so approval from a research ethics committee is not required. The methodology will be briefly explained and related to applying ethics in nursing.

**KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:**
As nursing evolved from a religious vocation to a profession, the education of nurses also changed from the apprenticeship model to the university model. How nursing ethics was caught and taught in those differing contexts is described to demonstrate the positive and negative consequences for nurse leaders over time. The historic strike of nurses in Victoria in 1986 which lasted for an unprecedented 50 days, is then discussed. Two outcomes of the strike were the introduction of the teaching of ‘Bio-Ethics’ in formal nursing education programs and the release of the first code of ethics for nurses in Australia in 1993. Since March 2018, however, nurses in Australia no longer have their own code of ethics: they are now bound by the International Council of Nurses code of ethics.

**CONCLUSION:**
Nursing ethics is now caught less and taught more and that has both negative and positive consequences for the profession. Further the absence of a unique Australian code of ethics for nurses is a mistake because it markedly diminishes the value, actual and perceived, of teaching applied (nursing) ethics, particularly at the leadership level.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**
Dr Lexie Brans FACN
Research and Policy Officer, Australian College of Nursing

Lexie is an experienced registered nurse and midwife with a Doctor of Philosophy degree awarded by Monash University. Lexie’s doctoral thesis built on her extensive experience as an academic and clinician to examine codes of ethics for nurses and the implications for teaching at the leadership level.
SESSION 3:
ENCOUNTERS: CRAFTING NURSING ETHICS
1:45PM – 3:15PM

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BULLYING IN NURSING. BATTLES, BULLIES AND SOME NOT VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE

Dr David Stanley MACN MA

AIMS AND FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH:
This presentation explores historical records and documentation from the Crimean War and the American Civil War. Two events that sat at the cusp of the start of modern nursing (in the USA and Europe). It explores examples of behaviour patterns and actions that set nursing on a course for bullying as part of the professional makeup of nursing.

METHODS AND/OR SOURCES:
Documents, historical records and published sources are used to explore events and behaviours evident in the Crimean and American Civil War, with biographies and prior research studies used to outline or expand upon historical events and critical episodes in nursing development at these times.

KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
Exploring a number of behaviours demonstrated by leading nurses and during key historical events at the start of the modern nursing revolution show a significant degree of (what would now be recognised as bullying) and it is proposed that while not part of nursing’s DNA, these negative and unfortunate behaviours have been embedded into the culture of nursing from the start and rest at the core of issues evident and persistent in current nursing practices and behaviours. It is proposed that only once this is recognised can it be challenged or changed.

CONCLUSION:
The point of the discussion is to discuss aspects of behaviours that have been with nursing from the start and to dispel some of the myths about modern nursing’s origins. Historical evidence will be used to highlight behaviours and events that point to the direction nursing has taken in terms of how we treat each other and how current negative behaviours may be challenged.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr David Stanley MACN MA
Senior Lecturer, Australian Catholic University

David ‘trained’ as a nurse when nurses wore funny caps and big belt buckles. His has had an eclectic and diverse career as a nurse and midwife, and after completing a nursing doctorate, he moved into academia, researching and writing about clinical leadership, teaching nursing and supporting and educating the future nursing workforce.
SESSION 3:
ENCOUNTERS: CRAFTING NURSING ETHICS
1:45PM – 3:15PM

NURSES IN A NAZI BABY FARM

Professor Linda Shields FACN
Co-author – Professor Susan Benedict

At this conference in 2015, we presented the beginnings of an exploration of the roles of nurses and midwives in baby farms in Nazi Germany. This paper presents the results of the study.

Polish and Ukrainian women were shipped to Nazi Germany to work as slave labourers. Some worked in the Ruehen Volkswagen Works near Wolfsburg, Germany, and on surrounding farms.

Abortion was illegal for German women but many foreign slave women were forced to have abortions. If their baby was born, it would be put into a “baby farm” with minimal care and the infants often died from neglect.

In the baby farms, malnutrition and untreated infections were extensive, but the mothers were forced to pay for this “care” and the resultant funeral expenses.

Using trial transcripts of three nurses, three doctors and four administrators charged with crimes against humanity which occurred from May-June 1946 at Helmstedt, Germany, we explore what has become known as the “Ruehen Baby Farm Case”.

The doctor was executed, one of the nurses was sentenced to death but this was commuted to 15 years’ imprisonment and the other nurse received five years but was released.

In the Nazi era, many more nurses than doctors committed crimes, but nurses have received little attention in scholarship and research. It is important that we bring this little known episode in nursing history to the attention of the profession, because the ethical demands of nursing now should be seen through the lens of history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Professor Linda Shields FACN
Honorary Professor, The University of Queensland

Linda Shields, Australia’s leading historian on the role of nurses in the Nazi era, works closely with Professor Susan Benedict from the South Carolina. They have published many papers in this area. Their two most important contributions are a book and a film on the nurses in the “euthanasia” programmes.
SESSION 4: TRANSITIONS: POLICY CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT 3:45PM – 5:00PM

‘ONLY FULLY TRAINED PEOPLE SHOULD BE LOOKING AFTER PATIENTS’: A HISTORICAL STUDY OF NURSING EDUCATION TRANSITION IN QUEENSLAND

Ms Penny Harrison
Co-author – Associate Professor
Chiung-Jung (Jo) Wu FACN

AIMS AND FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH:
The reform in nursing education from hospital training to tertiary education in Queensland was needed for Registered Nurses to achieve a professional standard within Australian society. The hierarchical nature of the Australian hospital system places student nurses on or near the lowest rung of the system. The voices of students and “rank and file” nurse are rarely heard in relation to the transition of nursing education and training. This paper begins to redress this absence by recovering the sentiments and experiences of nurses and students and how they adapted to and became reconciled to the reforms in nursing education and a professional burgeoning professional identity.

METHODS AND/OR SOURCES:
Oral history research methods were used to identify and explore the students and “rank and file” nurses’ perspectives. This approach allows individuals who have been ‘hidden from history’ to develop a historical voice. Accessing official and private documents enhanced the analysis of the interviews. This permitted for a more complex understanding of this transition period.

KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
Findings indicated the complexities of the transition of nursing education from the hospital-based apprenticeship system to the higher education sector. Individuals made personal adaptations, found acceptance and reconciled themselves to the education reforms and the restructuring of their workplaces. The most powerful argument to emerge from this study relates to the complexity of its subject matter.

CONCLUSION:
The transition had some positive outcomes for professional development. This account demonstrates the uncertainty that change brings to individuals, institutions, and a profession.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Ms Penny Harrison
Lecturer in Nursing, University of the Sunshine Coast

Penny Harrison is a Lecturer in Nursing at the University of the Sunshine Coast. She has completed a Bachelor in Nursing Science and a Bachelor of Arts (Class 1 Hons) majoring in history and geography. At present, she is completing a PhD titled “Schooling for all? A history of the educational experiences of children with disabilities in post-World War two Queensland”.
ABSTRACTS

SESSION 4: TRANSITIONS: POLICY CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT
3:45PM – 5:00PM

TASMANIAN NURSE PRACTITIONERS CHANGING THE HEALTH CARE LANDSCAPE

Dr Michelle Woods
Ms Hazel Bucher MACN

AIMS AND FOCUS OF THE RESEARCH:
Over the past 18 years integration of Australian Nurse Practitioner (NP) roles has been established by key legislative, educational, and regulatory standards. Australian NP models of care, to date demonstrate innovations to meet the changing health needs of populations, substantiated through evidence of efficacy, feasibility, safety, effectiveness, quality, and cost.

Despite these fundamental changes the full integration of the NP role has been slow and small in comparative numbers to the UK and USA. The NP movement is at a crossroads where a research practice gap has emerged leaving an “untapped health care solution”. This presentation takes a historical perspective to highlight the impetus and future potential for the integration of NP roles in the Australian health care system.

METHODS AND/OR SOURCES:
The presentation is informed by taking a comparative overview of the NP role integration in both the USA and Australia. This historical comparison substantiates a 2018 results from a Tasmanian NP profile survey. Further analysis of NP roles is highlighted through the use of critical reflective inquiry (CRI). CRI is a systematic method of inquiry to provide practitioners insight into the meaning of their practice through self-reflection that leads to practice changes and development of exciting new models of care.
KEY AREAS FOR DISCUSSION:
Exemplars and opportunities for MBS reform, changes to status quo service delivery and alignment with national inquiries e.g. in aged care will be highlighted.

CONCLUSION:
The translation of practice into “value” is critical for the sustainability of NP roles and requires the practitioner to adopt a systematic method of inquiry. Results generated from this historical perspective provided insight into how the role of the NP can be valued and integrated into the current Australian health care system.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr Michelle Woods
RN BS, MSN NP, Grad.Dip in Health Promotion, Grad Cert ED, DNSc.
Nurse Practitioner, Tasmanian Health Organisation

Michelle completed her Doctorate and Master of Science Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) at the University of Colorado with an emphasis in adult primary health care. Her expertise as a Nurse Practitioner started in the United States working in General Medicine and Endocrinology practices. She has been certified both in the USA and Australia as a Diabetes Educator. Her current practice is with the Royal Hobart Hospital Diabetes Centre and has a clinical management focus in complex care. In addition she works at GP practice Your Health Hub extending to chronic disease management, gerontology and women’s health.

Hazel Bucher MACN
MNSc Nurse Practitioner; Grad Dip Nsg
Aged Care & Mental Health; BN h.c.; MHN, RN
NP PsychoGeriatrics
ACNP National Secretary

Hazel is an Aged Care Nurse Practitioner (NP) who has been working in the Hobart as a NP since her authorisation in 2010. Hazel’s passion to improve health delivery for older Australians is the motivation behind all that she has done coupled with her belief that nurses can be at the forefront of positive change in health care delivery models. Hazel is a research associate with the Wicking Research and Education Centre in Hobart, is a Unit Coordinator with the Nursing and Midwifery (School of Health Sciences) University of Tasmania, conducts a Nurse-Led Memory Clinic and works with Hobart Aged Care to deliver an in-reach service to residents in residential care. Hazel joined the Board of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners in February 2019.
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