Identifying the scope of practice in nursing sub-specialties using child and adolescent mental health as an illustration.

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Overview

• Why is it important?
• The work of child and adolescent mental health nurses – PhD research
• The methodology
• The methods
• The significance of the findings
• The conceptual framework
• Post doctoral research
• Questions
Why is it important?

• The demise of specialisation in nursing

• Orthopaedic perspective

• Mental health nursing
The work of child and adolescent mental health nurses PhD research

- Why choose this area?
  - Changing workforce landscape
  - Mental health nursing
  - Role definition

- Ethical considerations
  - The sample group
Research Framework

The following diagram is adapted from Crotty (1998, pp. 4-5)
Relevance of Social Constructionism (Gergen 1985; Burr 2005) to mental health nursing

- Mental Health Nursing is not easily defined

- There is a synergy between social constructionism and mental health nursing

- Allows a rich and comprehensive understanding of the work of CAMHN
Relevance of Social Constructionism to mental health nursing

- Exploration of the taken for granted knowledge of CAMHN
- Allow the identification of the social processes that sustain the knowledge of CAMHN
The methods

• Document analysis
  – Attride-Stirling (2001)
  – Thematic Analysis Program (JBI)

• Focus Groups
  – Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006)

• Individual Interviews
  – Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006)
Analysis of the documents relevant to CAMH nursing

• Finding the documents

• Rationale for choosing the framework

• Thematic networks, the Iterative Process (Attride-Stirling 2001)

• The Joanna Briggs Thematic Analysis Program (TAP)
The methods
Focus Groups

• Recruiting participants

• The number of groups

• The analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006)

• Developing the questions for the individual interviews
Focus group themes

Knowledge transfer

Contextual perspective

Operational scope of the role

Theoretical framework

Team context

Professional issues

Risk and safety

The learning environment
The methods
Individual Interviews

• Recruiting participants

• The number of interviews

• The analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006)

• Verifying the conceptual framework with the participants.
Individual Interview Themes

- Regulation and understanding of the role
- Lack of understanding of the role
- Partnership with the family
- Crisis management
- Team support
- Developmental level
- Education role
- Approaches to learning
- Clinical supervision
- Working with other systems
- Clinical skills
- Flexible theoretical framework
The Findings

- Developing the conceptual framework for the work of child and adolescent mental health nurses.
Findings

Ways of Knowing the role
Five Stages

Ways of Knowing / Learning
Clinical Development
The Framework for Learning
A conceptual holistic framework of CAMH nurses knowledge and learning

Becoming a CAMH nurse (knowledge transfer)

Clinical supervision and reflective practice

Clinical skills

Risk and safety (assessing, monitoring and maintaining)

Theoretical framework for practice

Stage 2
Either currently undertaking Post Graduate qualification in mental health nursing or already a qualified mental health nurse

Stage 3
Child and adolescent mental health clinical experience and further education specific to the area

Stage 4
Child and adolescent mental health nurse developing expertise

Stage 5
Child and adolescent mental health with a high level of expertise

Stage 1
Registered Nurse with limited mental health education at an undergraduate level or a student nurse

The framework for learning

Contextual perspective of the role

The team

Legislation and regulation

The learning environment

Clinical development
A developmental approach to becoming a CAMH nurse

- Unknowing
- A cursory understanding of the known
- Becoming known
- The known facilitates
- Understanding the known

Moving between the final three stages
Implications for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Nursing

• Practice

• Education

• Research
The significance of the findings to nursing

- Smaller specialties in nursing such as orthopaedics, community health can more clearly define their roles

- Opportunity for further research in other nursing specialties using the research framework
Post Doctoral Research

• Currently undertaking research nationally in Australia to validate the framework

• Collaborations planned with Scandinavia

• Collaborations planned with the United Kingdom
Articles from the research


