

Nurses experiences with cultural safety: A Western Australian study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Several frameworks have been proposed to address cultural diversity and disparities in health outcomes for Indigenous and Aboriginal people. While there are similarities between concepts, cultural safety advocates that staff and organisations work together to establish a safe place for people, which is responsive to their social and cultural needs. Cultural safety is critical in ensuring meaningful and respectful nursing care and is particularly pertinent to mental health nurses in promoting respect, equity and social justice. Despite this, the experiences of mental health nurses working within a cultural safety framework is not well documented.

Aim: The aim of this study was to explore the provision of culturally safe care in a mental health setting and identify factors that inhibit or facilitate the experience.

Methods: A grounded theory approach was used to explore mental health nurses' experiences of cultural safety when working with Aboriginal people within mainstream health services in Western Australia.

Results: This presentation describes nurses' experiences in providing culturally safe care. The results demonstrated that nurses felt unprepared and faced several barriers to working in a culturally safe framework.

Conclusion

This research presents an area not previously explored. Understanding and acknowledging the needs of mental health professionals in providing culturally safe care will ensure cultural safety continues to be placed high on professional and organisational agendas within a Western Australian context and to empower professionalism and embrace the future of our caring professions.