

Do my feelings count?

Caring for people who present with alcohol related illness or injury to a small rural coastal hospital - the emergency nurse's experience.

Local Issues

- Microcosm of global concerns related to alcohol misuse
- Major tourist destination
- Many high profile events
- High levels of alcohol-related violence
- Significant impost on ED

I'm over it – the frustrations & powerlessness to effect change

Global Issues

- Increasing alcohol misuse internationally
- Associated increase in alcohol-related illness & injury
- Public health concerns about tackling legislative & social issues
- Escalating societal & government cost burdens

Groundhog day – the relentless nature of presentations



Conflicted & confused – the clash of compassion, anger & guilt

Violence & vulnerability – the fear, anxiety & worry associated with keeping patients and other staff safe, often with unsafe staffing levels

The toll of emotional labour - tolerance & humour often mask true feelings.

Study Aims & Design

An exploration of Emergency Nurses' feelings utilising a phenomenological approach.

To do this:

- data was collected from 3 focus groups & 2 interviews
- rigorous interpretive analysis elicited several major themes

What Does This Study Tell Us?

27 ED nurses participated in this study. These nurses:

- are worried about providing safe care for this patient cohort
- concerned for their own & others safety
- very tolerant of misbehavior associated with alcohol misuse
- are mostly willing to provide brief intervention education but do not believe they have the requisite confidence, skills & knowledge

Implications for Practice

- ED nurses need appropriate education to implement brief interventions (BI) in order to build capacity
- Health managers need to provide appropriate staffing levels to implement BI effectively
- Health managers need to acknowledge the emotional toll on ED nurses & provide necessary support

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