

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Violence in Hospitals

Professor Debra Jackson along with Dr Lauretta Luck and Professor Lesley Wilkes from the School of Nursing and Midwifery are investigating the validity of a violence assessment tool available in hospitals. This research is a Linkage Project funded by the Australian Research Council.

'Violence against nurses is well documented across Australian emergency hospital environments,' explains Professor Jackson. 'These environments allow patients and family members to become anxious and frustrated which can lead to violence towards nurses. What is needed is an assessment tool nurses can use to anticipate possible violence and/or violent situations. Such a tool will better equip nurses to deal with potential physical and non-physical violence in their workplace.'

The first phase of this research will be to further develop the violence assessment tool with the input of hospital nurses across western Sydney. A random sample of 1200 emergency department and general ward nurses will be surveyed by mail, seeking their perception of the significance of the violence cues – things to watch for – provides the assessment tool. The second phase of the research will test the assessment tool in hospitals to determine how reliable it is at predicting violence against nurses across 500-600 nursing interactions. This will determine how good the tool is at predicting violence that maybe experienced.



This research aims to increase the safety of nurses in their workplace, and reduce violence against nurses, with the flow on effect of increased productivity and job performance within the hospital setting. Moreover, this tool may also improve the overall safety of all people who are unfortunate enough to have to attend an emergency department or be admitted to hospital in Australia.

Project Title: Violence in the hospital setting: Testing the predictive validity of a violence assessment tool for nurses

Funding has been set at: \$96,949

Contact Details: debra.jackson@uws.edu.au
<http://www.uws.edu.au/nursing>

December 2009