

1999 Dissertations

Bien Nam Do Supervisor: Associate Professor Don Stewart
Needs assessment of Vietnamese women's health in South-West Brisbane.

Abstract

This study describes and analyses some of the characteristic features of Vietnamese women and defines some of their perceived health needs. Using questionnaire and interview methods a lack of language skills, cultural differences, loss of self esteem and low socio-economic status is found to be characteristic of their circumstances. Typically such factors compromise the health of this group as well as their access to the mainstream health system.

Catherine Baker Supervisor: Dr Michael Dunne
Epidemiology of Parkinson's Disease in Queensland

Abstract

This study investigates the prevalence and distribution of moderate to severe cases of Parkinson's Disease (PD) in Queensland using a postal survey of General Practitioners and a telephone survey of people with the disease. The crude prevalence rate for Idiopathic PD was shown to be 146-248 per 100,000. These figures are comparable with the results of other prevalence studies conducted in other areas of the world.

Roslyn Shaw Supervisor: Associate Professor Don Stewart
Quality in review: public regulation of oral health care

Abstract

This study uses a quality framework to examine the Health Practitioner Legislation Project, 1994, regarding the consultative process for proposed changes to the state's principal Acts regulating dentistry. The reform process is analysed, using content analysis, as a quality initiative which explores the connection between public regulation of the profession and quality in health care. The findings indicate that, in general, quality policy principles were not considered by respondents, reflecting the low recognition or understanding of stakeholders of the quality agenda in this area.

Maryanne Kehalie
Health workers and community perceptions of barriers to the provision of quality health care within the Church Rural Health Service in Simbu Province, Papua New Guinea.

Abstract

With nearly 90 per cent of the population living in rural areas in PNG, this study used a quality framework to examine the effective delivery of services in a rural province. Using qualitative methods, the study identified the barriers to the provision of quality health care, such as difficulty of access, negative health worker attitudes, shortage of appropriately qualified health workers and financial and resource shortages. Suggestions are proposed as to how these barriers can be managed and recommendations for maintaining and improving the quality of health care are made.

Sondra Small Supervisor: Melissa Stoneham

An investigation into risk communication strategies employed by Queensland local governments following the Sydney Cryptosporidium detection in 1998.

Abstract

This qualitative study examined whether the Cryptosporidium outbreak in Sydney promoted community concerns in Queensland, in turn influencing local governments to undertake appropriate risk communication strategies to allay fears for public health. Findings indicate that a number of issues need to be addressed as integral components of successful risk communication, including provision of high quality water standards, maintenance of intersectoral collaboration, commitment to ecologically sustainable development, risk perception and effective communication of information about risks.

Hanne Paust Supervisor: Associate Professor Don Stewart

Evaluation of Disability Services' Health and Well-being Policy and Practice manual.

Abstract

The aim of this study was to provide evidence, based on an evaluation of a current Health and Well-being Policy and Practice manual, for the redevelopment and re-implementation of the health and well-being policy in relation to accommodation services for people with intellectual disabilities and high support needs. A telephone survey of Disability Service staff using a standardised interview tool found that a state-wide Policy and Practice manual is appropriate but that improvements to the current policy and implementation strategies are needed. The new policy needs to build on a comprehensive theoretical framework which integrates health promotion with clearly defined outcomes and is supported by adequate resources.

Louisa Collins Supervisor: Sue Gargett

An economic analysis of cardiac rehabilitation programmes in the West Moreton Health District.

Abstract

Cardiac rehabilitation, consisting of exercise, psychosocial support, education and risk factor modification, is prescribed for a range of medical and post-surgical cardiac patients. With demand outstripping supply, this study involved a cost analysis to evaluate the costs and effects of the current service in West Moreton, as well as two alternatives, an expanded program and a home-based program. Results indicate that the current program involves an average community investment of \$1933, compared with \$1558 for the expanded program and \$1169 for the home-based program. In addition, the incremental costs per rehabilitated patient was \$1183 for the proposed expanded program and \$527 for the home-based program. This economic dimension to the delivery of cardiac rehabilitation services may assist managers make future resource decisions on issues that are apparent today.