Introduction and Team

The research program of the Mental Health Research Team (School of Nursing & Midwifery, Flinders University) is focused on projects that respond to the mental health needs of individuals, families and the community across a range of health care settings. Research projects are situated within a philosophy of recovery and aim to:

- provide evidence to guide clinical practice in mental health care settings; and
- be responsive to the future roles of mental health professionals and the evolution of mental health nursing.

1.1 Team

Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane,
Chair of Nursing (Mental Health) and leader of the team.

Dr Adam Gerace, Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Ms Pat Barkway, Senior Lecturer.

Ms Debra O’Kane, holds a joint lecturer and academic role with the School of Nursing & Midwifery and Repatriation General Hospital.

Ms Krista Mosel, Research Assistant, PhD Candidate (APA Scholarship).

The team demonstrates a mix of research and professional experience and works in partnership with other researchers and mental health professionals.
1.2 Research students

1.2.1 PhD

Shona Dove (University of South Australia), A false dichotomy: Safety versus desire and the negotiation of risk in a continuity of care midwifery program in South Australia: A critical ethnography. Supervisors: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Dr Adam Gerace, and Dr Tahereh Ziaian.

Krista Mosel (Flinders University), Psychiatric risk assessment and management: decision-making and perceptions of health professionals of ‘risky’ behaviours by patients. Supervisors: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Dr Adam Gerace, and Dr Tahereh Ziaian.

Christine Palmer (University of South Australia), Nursing practice in an acute psychiatric inpatient unit: A critical ethnography. Supervisor: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane.

Phyllis Rasmussen (The University of Adelaide), The work of child and adolescent mental health nurses on an inpatient unit. Supervisors: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane and Dr Ann Henderson.

Louise Roberts (Flinders University), The identification, assessment, and management of psychiatric presentations by paramedics within the community. Supervisors: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Dr Julie Henderson, and Associate Professor Eileen Willis.

1.2.2 Honours

Jessica Grotto (Flinders University), Risk assessment and management in relation to absconding: The impact on mental health nurses in clinical practice. Supervisors: Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane and Dr Adam Gerace

2.0 Research

2.1 Research projects

2.1.1 Risk assessment and management

The Mental Health Team has continued to work on a research project investigating risk assessment and management in aged care psychiatric services. This project involves a partnership with senior nursing staff at the Repatriation General Hospital and will be completed in January 2010. This study, which is funded by the Faculty of Health Sciences Seed Grant Scheme, has investigated clinical decision making processes through qualitative interviews with mental health nurses and allied health professionals. The project aims to investigate the processes involved in risk management and how effective clinical decision making can be facilitated.

2.1.2 Absconding

The Team has examined absconding data for one year from Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS) in order to calculate rates of absconding and to develop a profile of absconding consumers within an Australian context. This work developed from the Team’s earlier systematic review of absconding literature (Muir-Cochrane & Mosel 2008), which highlighted a lack of published research within Australia on the rates and risk factors for absconding, as well as the specific aspects of these events. In 2010 this work will continue through two competitive Research Grants which the team have won to investigate absconding from acute care and rehabilitation inpatient psychiatric services, examining rates of absconding and continuing to develop a profile of absconding consumers, examination of policies and procedures surrounding absconding, and in-depth examination of the perceptions and responses of mental health professionals, carers and consumers.

2.1.3 Reducing conflict and containment in psychiatry

Professor Muir-Cochrane begun work in 2009 as an investigator on a project funded by the National Institute of Health Research Programme in the UK (£2 million). The project is led by Professor Len Bowers of City University, where Eimear has Visiting Professor status. The project explores strategies to reducing conflict (absconding, seclusion, substance abuse) on acute psychiatric inpatient wards in the UK.
2.1.4 Carer/Peer Consultants

This project is an investigation of carer and peer consultants’ experiences of their role in mental health facilities. Pat Barkway is leading on the write-up of this project which was devised by Eimear Muir-Cochrane. This is a collaborative project with Sharon Olsson (Nursing Director Education & Research, The Learning Centre, CNAHS Mental Health Directorate).

2.1.5 Physical Restraint and Case Management

The Team is currently undertaking two selective literature reviews:

- Physical Restraint in Aged Care
  Authors: Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Krista Mosel, Dr Anita De Bellis (Senior Lecturer SON&M, Flinders University), Dr Ann Harrington (SON&M, Senior Lecturer, Flinders University), David Curren (Nursing Director Mental Health Division, Repatriation General Hospital, Southern Adelaide Health Service), and Justin Prendergast (Nursing Director Rehabilitation, Aged Care & Allied Health Division, Repatriation General Hospital, Southern Adelaide Health Service).

- Case Management in Mental Health
  Authors: Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Krista Mosel, Associate Professor Eileen Willis (Head: Social Health Sciences and Assistant Dean: Medical and Health Programs, School of Medicine, Flinders University), and Dr Julie Henderson (Research Fellow, School of Medicine, Flinders University).

2.2 Research Grants

Project title: Reducing Conflict and Containment in Psychiatry

2009-2010: Dr Roger Wurm Scholarship, Nurses Memorial Foundation of SA Inc. $9,000.
Project title: An investigation into the role of the nurse in caring for patients at risk of absconding from psychiatric inpatient units.
Chief Investigators: Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Adam Gerace, Pat Barkway

2009-2011: Flinders University Faculty of Health Sciences Industry Partnership Research Grants. $52,062.
Project title: An examination of absconding behaviour by psychiatric inpatients within Central Northern Adelaide Health Service.
Chief Investigators: Eimear Muir-Cochrane, Adam Gerace, Pat Barkway

3.0 Consultancy


2008-2009: Flinders University Faculty of Health Sciences Seeding Grant. $10,000
Project title: Managing risk: clinical decision making in aged care mental health services
Chief Investigators: Eimear Muir-Cochrane, David Curren (Repatriation General Hospital).
Other investigators: Adam Gerace, Deb O’Kane, Pat Barkway, Krista Mosel

4.0 Professional and Community Service

4.1 International
Eimear Muir-Cochrane
- Australasian Editor, *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*.
- Editorial board member, *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*.
- Scientific Committee Member, 35th Annual International Conference of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

4.2 National
Eimear Muir-Cochrane
- Deputy Chair of the Mental Health Nurse Education Taskforce (MHNET) Implementation Group, a subcommittee of the Mental Health Workforce Advisory Committee.
- Credential Assessor, Australian College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.

Pat Barkway
- Member of the South Australian Department of Health Transition to Practice Advisory Group.

4.3 State
Eimear Muir-Cochrane
- Academic Representative on project: *Building the future for Mental Health Nursing: The development of a strategic operational plan for Nurses within Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS)*.
- Academic Representative on the Education, Training and Research Action Team for CNAHS to implement the operational strategic plan.
- Expert member of the SA Seclusion Beacon Demonstration Steering Committee, a federally funded initiative aiming to reduce seclusion of psychiatric patients across Australia.

Pat Barkway
- Krista Mosel, Commendation by Sir Eric Neal for outstanding achievement completing Bachelor of Nursing (Honours).

5.0 Scholarship
Adam Gerace, Doctor of Philosophy (June, 2009), *The influence of past experience on the process of perspective taking*. Supervisors: Associate Professor Andrew Day, Dr Sharon Casey, Dr Philip Mohr. Examiners: Professor Mark Davis, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Cartwright, University of South Australia.

6.0 Publications
- *Psychology for Health Professionals* (Elsevier Australia) edited by Pat Barkway was released in June, 2009.

The book provides an introduction to psychology for allied health students and encourages an understanding of the complex and interactive nature of the factors which influence an individual’s health behaviours and health outcomes.

- National Book launch, 35th Annual International Conference of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Sydney, October 1, 2009.
6.1 Publications list

6.1.1. Books


6.1.2 Book chapters:


6.1.3 Journal articles:


http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/13591789


6.1.5 Conference Presentations – Refereed Abstracts:

6.1.5.1 International


6.1.4 Journal articles submitted:


6.1.5.2 Local


Roberts, L & Muir-Cochrane, E, 2009 ‘The identification, assessment, and management of psychiatric presentations by paramedics within the community’, paper presented at the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses - SA Branch Annual Forum in conjunction with Consultation Liaison Special Interest Group Annual Conference, Adelaide, June 4-5.


6.1.6 Invited key note presentations:

6.1.6.1 International


6.1.6.2 Local

Muir-Cochrane, E 2009, ‘Hypocrisy, irony and opportunity in mental health’, key note address presented at the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses - SA Branch Annual Forum/Consultation Liaison Special Interest Group Annual Conference, Adelaide, June 4-5.

6.1.7 Other presentations:


6.1.8 Theses


http://arrow.unisa.edu.au:8080/vital/access/manager/Repository/unisa:38313?exact=creator%3A%22Gerace%2C+Adam%22

**Staff**

**Eimear Muir-Cochrane**
Telephone: 8201 5907 Fax: 8276 1602
Email: eimear.muircochrane@flinders.edu.au

**Adam Gerace**
Telephone: 8201 7640 Fax: 8276 1602
Email: adam.gerace@flinders.edu.au

**Pat Barkway**
Telephone: 8201 3254 Fax: 8276 1602
Email: pat.barkway@flinders.edu.au

**Deb O’Kane**
Telephone: 8201 7962 Fax: 8276 1602
Email: debra.okane@flinders.edu.au

**Krista Mosel**
Email: krista.mosel@flinders.edu.au