

**CENA RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

C/O Ms Karen Hammad

Chair, Research Committee

6<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

**RE: NURSES' KNOWLEDGE OF AGEING AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE OLDER PERSON IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT SETTINGS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The objective of the survey was to assess nurses' knowledge of ageing and attitudes towards the older person in Emergency Department settings; and investigate the characteristics of nurses that influence these.

Surveys were distributed to all members of the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia Ltd. The survey commenced January 2013 and completed in April 2013. The Older Persons in Acute Care (OPACs) is a self-reporting questionnaire consisting of 110 questions on a 5 point Likert scale, structured as 4 main sections of attitudes, knowledge, practice and a Paltore's Facts of Ageing Quiz (including a demographics section), relating to 14 different characteristics that influence acute care nurses clinical care of the older person. The OPACs instrument assesses nurses' communication with older patients, knowledge of medications, continence, hygiene, pain management, general issues, psychological status of older patients, ageist stereotypes; Admission and discharge planning, mobilisation and nurse attitude, including aged related issues and decision making, to the older person in an acute care setting.

Data is completed and the response rate was 371 (39%) completed and valid surveys returned to researchers.

**STATISTICAL METHODS**

Preliminary analysis of the data is currently being conducted. Sum scores were created for each of the 3 survey domains (attitudes, knowledge and practice); an additional knowledge domain was be created by counting the number of correct responses (out of 24) from the Paltore's items.

We performed four separate linear regressions to assess the effect of the following nurse characteristics on the domain scores:

- Age
- Gender
- Mode of employment (fulltime or part time)
- Nursing role (registered nurse, advanced nurse or management)
- Years of experience (less than 5 years or 5 years and over)
- Region (rural vs metro)
- Qualifications (undergraduate or postgraduate)

Qualitative data was collected from interviews of fifteen nurses (after written consent) using open ended questions were conducted from two emergency departments, with participants recorded discussing their experiences of caring for the older person in the ED.

### Outcomes:

1. An overview of the study, including data comparing the demographics characteristics with the areas of attitude, knowledge and practice was presented at the Australian Association Gerontology (AAG) and Australian Community Services (ACS) regional conference on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.
2. A presentation of the results will be presented on 19<sup>th</sup> September at the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Emergency and Trauma Nurse Conference at Dublin, Ireland.

We are currently completing three manuscripts for submission from the OPACS results.

We would like to thank CENA for the opportunity to survey their members and for the members for participating.

Debra Deasey  
University Of Newcastle  
PhD Student  
20 Waugh Street  
Port Macquarie  
NSW 2444

0414423270  
[Debra.Deasey@uon.edu.au](mailto:Debra.Deasey@uon.edu.au)

### Co-Authors

Dr Ashley Kable  
Associate Professor,  
Deputy Head of School (Research)  
School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Faculty of Health and Medicine,  
University of Newcastle

Dr Sarah Jeong  
International Student Liaison Officer  
School of Nursing and Midwifery  
University of Newcastle