

# Emergency nurse practitioners and the 'medical vortex'

Valuing and protecting the nurse practitioner role and profession

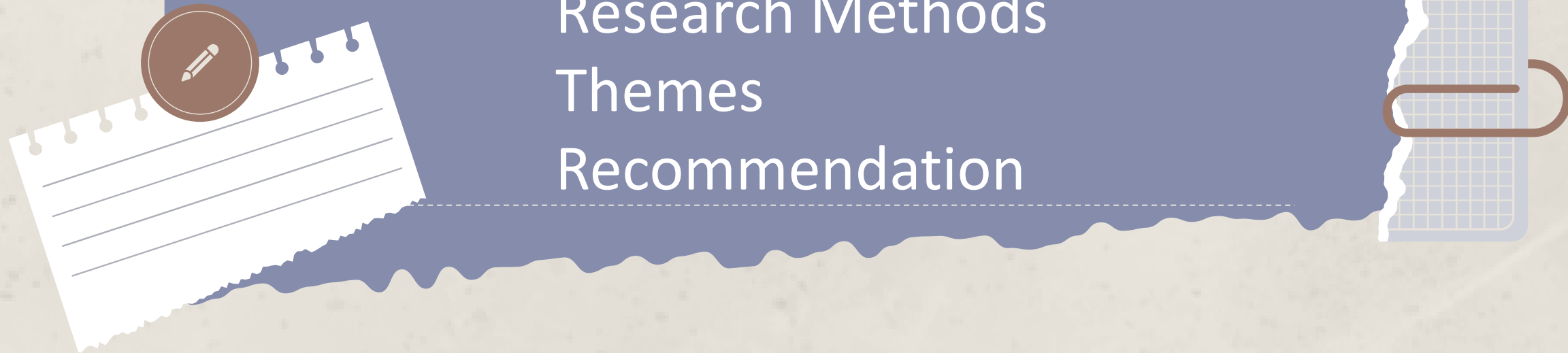
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# Aims of the session

Research question  
Background  
Literature Review  
Research Methods  
Themes  
Recommendation



# Perceptions and experiences of nurse practitioners in New Zealand Emergency Departments

## Research Questions and Aims

Current role and practice in contributing to service needs and patient outcomes

01

02

How would they like their role and practice to develop

Establishing and maintaining their role and practice

03

04

Opinion on the expected effect of Te Whatu Ora healthcare reform

# Background

Scope established in 2001  
Education: Clinical Masters

## New Zealand

701 nurse practitioners  
registered as of March  
2023 in New Zealand

## Authorised prescribing

Medicines Act  
amended 2013

## Protected scope and title

Advanced practice  
in response  
shortage of doctors.  
PHC and rural

## NPTP

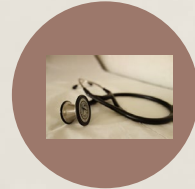
Increasing  
opportunity and  
support

# Literature Review



## Scope and Title

Variances across countries but becoming more consistent



## Advanced and autonomous practice

The bridge between medical and nursing. Nursing identity is challenged



## Establishing and maintaining

# Methods



- **Qualitative Descriptive**

Lived experiences

- **Participants**

10 nurse practitioners

- **Data Collection**

Online, asynchronous forum

- **Thematic Analysis**

Explores the essence of participant experiences, rich themes and patterns develop

# Four main themes



# Nursing identity

*“Protecting the ‘Nurse’ in nurse practitioner, without getting lost in the medical model vortex”*



“



*“The ‘workhorse’ Jnr Registrar level clinician to fit within the medical model – this is what I am hearing my senior colleagues say. Sometimes it feels as if I am in between medicine and nursing and not quite knowing how I fit.”*





# Protecting the advanced and autonomous scope



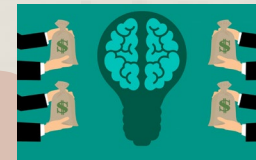
*“It has become more apparent that it is an expectation of the SMO group that the advanced nursing team should stay in low acuity, this is in conflict with emergency nurses becoming NPs as we do it for the love of ED not for the love of minor medical ailments.”*

# Valuing the professional



*"... I have worked hard to achieve my role, I am doing the same to have a second NP role developed – this should be automatic. A RN leaves, we hire a new one, a Doctor leaves we hire a new one. A NP leaves.... we leave a gap or import a registrar from the UK for their one-year OE."*

*"Initially we were only supported for 0.6FTE, this meant myself and my colleague did 0.3FTE as CNS. [no]support for NP roles in the acute settings... this became a barrier to transition as the roles were funded as CNS".*



*"We recently installed BRAND NEW software. Despite being aware of the NP role it wouldn't allow me to ... put my name next to a patient as attending clinician"*

*"Concerto automatically prefills electronic prescriptions with Dr and NZMC number so I have to cross that out each time... [diagnostic tests] prefill with 'Dr' so I have to insert the SMO for the day... Little things, but they do gripe some days".*

# Protecting the professional



## Trailblazers



*“I am **eternally thankful for the trail blazers** who have gone before me to get the ED NP role to where it currently is”*

*“...thank you to all our colleagues who have worked tirelessly to be heard and recognised for all ENPs in NZ and abroad.”*



## Medical support



*“A very vocally supportive SMO team. I could not have got where I am without them... providing supervision and education... **advocated for me on many levels**”*

*“We have a very large, vocal and **supportive SMO group** – advocated and supported me and the ENP future to ensure we have support and funding at an executive level.”*



## Manager support



*“Once on board, our **ED nurse manager has been pivotal** in protecting FTE obtained for advanced nursing positions.”*

*“A change in senior nursing has enabled the role to be established. **I feel very positive about maintaining the role** as there is real commitment to support NPs.”*

# Recommendation



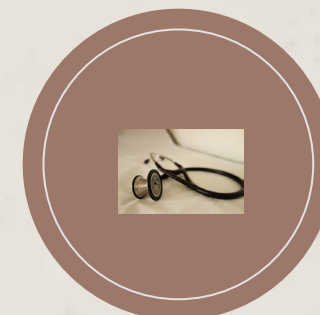
Competency  
and training  
framework

Nationally  
recognised



Adapted for  
nurse  
practitioners

Similar to FACEM



Value and  
protect

More nurse  
practitioners in ED  
Career progression





# Thank you