

Centre Projects

GIVING VOICE TO PATIENT SAFETY

Funding Source: Clinical Excellence Commission, NSW

Investigators: Jeffrey Braithwaite, Joanne Travaglia, Peter Nugus

Duration: 2005

Description: This project is one of the elements of the first phase of the CEC-CCGR contract. It utilised focus groups methodology to explore the perspectives of health service professionals across NSW as to the causes, consequences and responses to patient safety issues. Associate Professor Braithwaite, Ms Travaglia and Mr Nugus conducted the focus groups, which gathered together policy makers, clinicians, allied health professionals, managers and consumers in 25 groups across Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Participants were asked about: their concerns relating to patient safety, whether these concerns had changed in recent years; whether certain individuals or groups were at higher risk in the system; incidents or adverse events they had witnessed or experienced; what positives they saw in relation to patient safety, what factors they thought impeded improvements to patient safety; what things they felt could contribute to improvements; and the focus and role of the CEC.

The rich data which these groups produced is currently being analysed and will result in both a major report and a 'key points' document. This project is on target for release in the first quarter 2006.