

University of Wollongong

## Research Online

---

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health -  
Papers: part A

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

---

1-1-2014

### Forward thinking: using phenomenography to explore the meaning of safety in acute mental health inpatient units

Natalie Cutler

*University of Wollongong*, nac639@uowmail.edu.au

Lorna Moxham

*University of Wollongong*, lmoxham@uow.edu.au

Moira Stephens

*University of Wollongong*, moiras@uow.edu.au

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers>



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Cutler, Natalie; Moxham, Lorna; and Stephens, Moira, "Forward thinking: using phenomenography to explore the meaning of safety in acute mental health inpatient units" (2014). *Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health - Papers: part A*. 2404.

<https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers/2404>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: [research-pubs@uow.edu.au](mailto:research-pubs@uow.edu.au)

---

## Forward thinking: using phenomenography to explore the meaning of safety in acute mental health inpatient units

### Abstract

Abstract of a poster that was presented at ACMHN's 40th International Mental Health Nursing Conference - Honouring the Past, Shaping the Future, 7-9 October 2014, Melbourne, Vic Australia.

### Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Publication Details

Cutler, N., Moxham, L. & Stephens, M. (2014). Forward thinking: using phenomenography to explore the meaning of safety in acute mental health inpatient units. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 23 (Suppl. S1), 8-8.

2014, 7th - 9th October

Australian College of Mental Health Nurses 40th International Mental Health Nursing

 Conference Programme

---

## Forward thinking: Using phenomenography to explore the meaning of safety in acute mental health inpatient units

### Abstract

Safety is a priority in mental health services. The concept of safety in health services is commonly understood as the avoidance or reduction of harm arising from health care management or the environment in which it is delivered. This concept has been challenged by some mental health consumer groups however as being excessively oriented toward risk at the expense of therapeutic outcomes. The possibility that safety could represent something different for mental health consumers has inspired a mental health nurse to undertake a study into the meaning of safety for people who have experienced admission to an acute mental health inpatient unit. A relatively new health research approach has been used, based on its alignment with the principles of recovery-oriented mental health services. Phenomenography is a qualitative approach that has evolved from its origins in education research in the 1970s. While it is becoming more utilised in health research, the approach is not well known in mental health. The emerging elements of the study will be presented, along with an overview of the phenomenographic research approach. Deepening our understanding of consumers' perceptions and experience of safety places mental health nurses at the forefront of advocacy. By illuminating the varied meanings of safety, this study has the potential to shape the future by offering new insights with which to influence change in mental health policy, clinical practice and professional development. The study has gained Human Research ethics approval from the University of Wollongong.

### Authors

[Natalie Cutler](#) (University of Wollongong), Lorna Moxham, Dr Moira Stephens

### Session

P3 » Poster (12:30 - Thursday, 9th October)

---

[EMAIL SUPPORT](#) • [BLOG](#) • [PRIVACY POLICY](#) • [CANCELLATION POLICY](#)

powered by **Ex Ordo**