



It's not just about immunisation: The case for nurse immunisers

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Background, Aim & Method

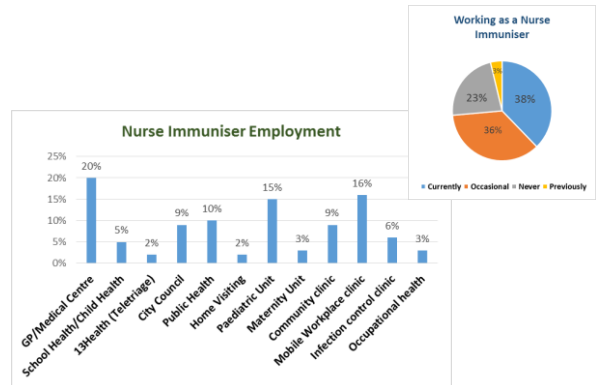
- Being vaccinated places each child in the hands of a health care professional.
- When immunisation service delivery is undertaken by nurse immunisers, there are wider public health benefits.
- Aim:
 - explore current Australian political/practice context for nurse immunisation
 - identify settings/depth/breadth of nurse immuniser practice.
- Methods
 - Document review (Internet, University Library database search)
 - Course evaluation (Exit Survey, Audit, Anecdotal feedback)
 - Post-completion Survey (email questionnaire)



Results: Document Review



- Documents:
 - Policy, education, protocols to direct nurse immuniser practice
 - Limited documentation about value or effectiveness
 - (e.g. effectiveness of nurse-immuniser led clinic, influenza staff campaign)
 - Plethora pertaining to effectiveness of policy and other health care professionals
- Implications:
 - Nurses are focused on practice and working with clients
 - More research and publication needed
- No specific government funding for nurses as immunisers
 - missed opportunity



Results



- **Course Evaluation**
 - >1000 nurse immunisers prepared over 20 years
 - Only 38% work in specific nurse immunisation practice
 - Nurses use their immunisation expertise across a variety of clinical settings
- Implications:
 - Nurses use comprehensive skills across settings
 - to provide immunisation as well as further health care assessment,
 - improving health care in general.
 - With vaccination in non-health care settings, some children may not be presented to traditional health care settings for broader health checks



Conclusions



- Nurse Immuniser role is under-recognised
 - Under-utilised resource
- Nurses are very well prepared for role
 - continual improvement in vaccination rates and health outcomes
- Governments need to consider this
 - when planning health policy and vaccination program funding.

