

ABSTRACT

1. Title:

Midwifery Change Leaders' Experiences of Implementing Practice Innovation

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3. Key words:

Glaserian Grounded Theory methodology; Australian midwife change leaders; innovation implementation; participants' experiences.

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

Midwifery is a research-informed profession with a mandated requirement to use latest best evidence. The introduction of new evidence into health care, however, is complicated and uncertain. Much of the research related to the 'evidence translation gap' has focused on nursing and medical practice; by comparison there is very little published about the challenges to implementing evidence in midwifery. This study aims to help address this gap by investigating Australian midwives' experience of implementing evidence-based practice innovations.

b. Methods

Glaserian Grounded Theory methodology is being used for this study, which is set in Australian maternity services. The sample comprises purposively selected midwives who have been responsible for introducing an evidence-based practice innovation into their workplace ('change-leader midwives'). A parsimonious and iterative 'constant comparison' approach to data collection and analysis is being taken. Data is being collected through audio-recorded in-depth semi-structured interviews that are analysed following transcription at the first level ('coded') as soon as possible after each is conducted. These first level codes are then grouped into sub-categories, which in turn are collapsed to form major categories. Together, these categories tell the story that answers the research question. Data collection and analysis will continue until saturation of the categories is reached.

c. Conclusion

It is expected that this data will provide previously unknown insights into the factors that hinder and help the translation of research evidence into midwifery practice that can be utilised in the development of evidence uptake processes and methods for this profession.