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THE PREVALENCE, NATURE AND VIEWS OF CROSS-DISCIPLINARY SUPERVISION AMONGST SOCIAL WORKERS IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

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ABSTRACT

This thesis studied cross-disciplinary supervision practice amongst social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand. In particular, the research explored the prevalence and nature of and views about cross-disciplinary supervision amongst a group of Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Work (ANZASW) members.

The thesis was a cross-sectional research which consisted of a web-based internet survey questionnaire that was distributed to a convenience sample of ANZASW social workers. Pragmatism informed the methodological approach to the collection of the data which was required for this research.

The key findings from the study were: a) cross-disciplinary supervision is occurring amongst ANZASW social workers on a regular and planned basis, although the extent of this is unknown; b) there was no clear understanding of what constitutes cross-disciplinary supervision although it appeared to be similar in nature to supervision within their own discipline; and c) this group of ANZASW social workers generally viewed cross-disciplinary supervision positively although the potential for issues was acknowledged and there was general agreement about the need for guidelines.

The implications and recommendations which arose from the research results concerned: a) understanding the cross-disciplinary supervision that occurs amongst Aotearoa New Zealand social workers; and b) promoting competence and accountability in cross-disciplinary supervision practice amongst ANZASW social workers. The recommendations related to the need for further research regarding the prevalence and nature of cross-disciplinary supervision, guidelines and policy in relation to the practice of cross-disciplinary supervision, and the need to educate social workers and develop knowledge about those factors that impact on cross-disciplinary supervision practice.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract ii
Acknowledgements iii
List of Tables iv
Table of Contents v

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION 1
Research aims and objectives 1
The rationale for engaging in this research 1
Key terms and concepts 3
Thesis structure 4

Chapter 2: CROSS-DISCIPLINARY SUPERVISION AND SOCIAL WORK 6
The nature of social work supervision 7
The emergence of cross-disciplinary supervision 9
The prevalence of cross-disciplinary supervision 11
The nature of cross-disciplinary supervision 12
Views about cross-disciplinary supervision 20
Conclusion 28

Chapter 3: METHODOLOGY 30
Philosophical underpinnings of the research 30
Research design 32
Ethics 37
The sample 38
Data analysis 39
Limitations of the methodology 40
Conclusion 41

Chapter 4: CROSS-DISCIPLINARY SUPERVISION: THE AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND CONTEXT 42
The prevalence of cross-disciplinary supervision amongst ANZASW social workers 42
The nature of the cross-disciplinary supervision engaged in by ANZASW social workers 50
ANZASW Social workers views about cross-disciplinary supervision 63
Conclusion 78

Chapter 5: DISCUSSION 81
The Prevalence of Cross-disciplinary Supervision amongst ANZASW Social Workers 81
The Nature of Cross-disciplinary Supervision 83
ANZASW Social Workers Views about Cross-disciplinary Supervision 89
Implications 91
Conclusion 97
Chapter 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 99
Review of the Research Process 99
Questions 100
Methodology 100
Key Findings 101
Implications and Recommendations 102
Researchers Personal Reflections on the Research Journey 106
Conclusion 106

Appendices 108
Appendix A Survey Questionnaire 108
B Application to the Human Ethics Committee 136
C Approval letter from Human Ethics Committee 148
D First approval letter for application of variance from the Human Ethics Committee 149
E Second approval letter for application of variance from the Human Ethics Committee 150

Bibliography 151
List of Tables

Table 3.1 Reliability of Scales

Table 4.1 Participation in Cross-disciplinary Supervision by Age Group

Table 4.2 Years of Social Work Experience*Participation in Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.3 Primary Field of Social Work Practice*Participation in Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.4 Level of Social Work Practice*Participation in Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.5 Geographical Location of Social Work Practice* Participation in Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.6 Level of Participation in Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.7 Number of Cross-disciplinary Supervisees

Table 4.8 Frequency of Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.9 Rating for Experience of each Type for Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.10 Mode of Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.11 Reason/s Participants Received Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.12 Reason/s Participants Provided Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.13 Profession/Discipline Cross-disciplinary Supervisor Identifies With

Table 4.14 Profession/Discipline Cross-Disciplinary Supervisee/s Identify With

Table 4.15 Frequency of Supervision Received from ANZASW Social Worker

Table 4.16 Items Included in Cross-disciplinary Supervision Contract/s

Table 4.17 Functions Included in Cross-Disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.18 Level of Agreement with Statement about Satisfaction Experienced for Each Function of Cross-disciplinary Supervision

Table 4.19 Extent that Cross-disciplinary Supervision Features Enhance Practice
Table 4.20  Extent that Cross-disciplinary Supervision Features Enhance Supervisee Practice 66
Table 4.21  Ranked Rating of Features that Enhance Practice by Participant Groups 67
Table 4.22  Extent that Cross-disciplinary Supervision Features Hinder Practice 68
Table 4.23  Extent that Cross-disciplinary Supervision Features Hinder Supervisee Practice 69
Table 4.24  Ranked Rating of Features that Hinder Practice by Participant Groups 70
Table 4.25  Criteria for Effectiveness in Receiving Cross-disciplinary Supervision: Levels of agreements 71
Table 4.26  Criteria for Effectiveness in Providing Cross-disciplinary Supervision: Levels of Agreement 71
Table 4.27  Ranked Rating of Criteria for Effectiveness by Participant Groups 72
Table 4.28  Level of Importance Indicated for Each Statement by Participants who Received Cross-disciplinary Supervision 74
Table 4.29  Level of Importance Indicated for Each Statement by Participants who Provided Cross-disciplinary Supervision 75
Table 4.30  Ranked Rating of Statements by Participant Groups 76
Table 6.1  Cross-disciplinary Supervision Practice Checklist 105