

University of Wollongong

Research Online

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

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

1-1-2015

Giving women a voice - narratives on accessing (or not) drug and alcohol services

Renee M. Brighton

University of Wollongong, reeneb@uow.edu.au

Lorna Moxham

University of Wollongong, lmoxham@uow.edu.au

Victoria Traynor

University of Wollongong, vtraynor@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

Brighton, Renee M.; Moxham, Lorna; and Traynor, Victoria, "Giving women a voice - narratives on accessing (or not) drug and alcohol services" (2015). *Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health - Papers: part A*. 2799.

<https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers/2799>

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

Giving women a voice - narratives on accessing (or not) drug and alcohol services

Abstract

Abstract of a presentation at the ADDICTION 2015: the Australian & New Zealand Addiction Conference, Gold Coast, Australia, 20-22 May.

Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Publication Details

Brighton, R., Moxham, L. & Traynor, V. (2015). Giving women a voice - narratives on accessing (or not) drug and alcohol services. Alcohol, Other Drugs, Behavioural Addictions: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery: ADDICTION 2015 Australia: The Australian & New Zealand ADDICTION.

Concurrent Sessions

Ms Renee Brighton

Lecturer, School of Nursing, University of Wollongong

Co Authors - Professor Lorna Moxham, School of Nursing, University of Wollongong, Associate Professor Victoria Traynor, School of Nursing, University of Wollongong

Giving women a voice – narratives on accessing (or not) drug and alcohol services

Aim The purpose of this project was to gain a greater understanding of why women with alcohol-use disorders (AUDs) decide to engage (or not) with drug and alcohol services.

Background Although women drink less volume of alcohol than men, they have a higher risk of developing alcohol-related harm than their male counterparts (NHMRC 2009). In Australia and New Zealand, the rates of women drinking to excess has grown significantly over the past decade, seeing a dramatic increase in the number of women experiencing alcohol-related health conditions (NHMRC 2009, Ministry of Health 2009). Despite this, women are less likely to engage with services that specifically support and treat people experiencing AUDs (Greenfield et al. 2007). This is made all the more significant when considering that women who do engage with treatment services generally have positive health outcomes and have a greater chance at reducing alcohol-related harms when compared men.

Methods A phenomenological methodological framework underpins this project. Semi-structured, in-depth one-to-one interviews with women experiencing alcohol-use disorders formed the means of data collection. The themes and key findings from the analysis of these interviews as to why women engage (or not) with specialist drug and alcohol services will form the basis of the presentation.

Conclusion Given the fact that increasing numbers of Australian and New Zealand women consume alcohol at harmful levels and are more susceptible to alcohol's psychological and physiological effects, it is important to establish the deeper meaning behind why they enlist the help of drug and alcohol services. This project fills a gap in understanding in why engage women with AUDs in these services. This research has the potential to inform the development of more specific, targeted and gender-appropriate drug and alcohol services being provided to these vulnerable populations.