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**Diplomates' perceptions of their  
psychiatric nursing component of  
the four-year comprehensive programme**

by

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submitted in fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS**

in the

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STUDIES**

at the

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Student number: 0675-153-9

## **D E C L A R A T I O N**

I declare that **DIPLOMATES' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR PSYCHIATRIC NURSING COMPONENT OF THE FOUR-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

.....

**SIGNATURE**  
**(EN HLONGWA)**

.....

**DATE**

# **DIPLOMATES PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR PSYCHIATRIC NURSING COMPONENT OF THE FOUR-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME**

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## **Summary**

The study attempted to identify R425 diplomates' perceptions of their psychiatric competencies. An exploratory descriptive survey investigated specific strengths and weaknesses of the R425 diplomates in the psychiatric clinical units in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, as perceived by the diplomates themselves.

The diplomates were reportedly competent in performing numerous, but not all cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills addressed by this survey. The R425 diplomates perceived themselves to be incompetent in designing and implementing rehabilitation programmes/workshops, managing community projects, conducting research and managing crises in psychiatric nursing units.

### **KEY TERMS:**

Clinical nursing, comprehensive nursing course, newly qualified nurses, nurses' competencies, nursing education, psychiatric nursing/nurses, psychiatric nursing competencies.

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# **Dedication**

This dissertation is dedicated to my  
late father and mother,  
my children Gugelethu and Mbalenhle  
and my family and friends