

Occupational Therapy Research Priorities in Mental Health

Bissett et al. (2002)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

occupational therapy in mental health

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Australia - Australia

Why was it conducted at all?

Research related to mental health in occupational therapy is scarce (Craik, Austin, Chacksfield, Richards, & Schell, 1998; Mountain, 1997). Yet therapists need research to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of consumers and administrators using evidence as a basis for practice (Taylor, 2000). To be accepted and used in the practice setting, research needs to be based on clinical need (Bohannon & Le Veau, 1986). Occupational therapists therefore have a key role in identifying what research is needed to help them justify clinical performance and provide high quality service to clients. One way to share views about what is needed in research is for occupational therapists themselves to generate research topics (Waine, Magill-Evans, & Pain, 1997).

What was the objective?

to elicit the views of occupational therapists working in mental health regarding research topics they think are important and to identify those research topics which occupational therapists consider are priorities

What was the outcome?

a list of 27 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants to identify five questions or problems that they believed needed research in the six areas. Step 2: data processing. Step 3: Delphi round 2: survey: participants were asked to rate each problem or question. Step 4: Delphi round 3: survey: comprising those items which had been rated as extremely important (6 or 7) by the group in round two, participants were asked to re-rate topics

Which stakeholders took part?

Occupational therapists who work in mental health. 21 participants in Delphi round 1, 14 participants in Delphi round 2, 11 participants in Delphi round 3.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Random sampling of the national database of OT-Australia: participants had to be qualified occupational therapists (degree or diploma), members of the Australian national professional occupational therapy association (OT-Australia) and currently working in Australia in mental health.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.