



Diana Jefferies

Unfolding Narratives: Creating short films for nursing education that demonstrate current best practice for future historical analysis

The Unfolding Narratives project has produced four films for nursing education using a collaborative co-design process with researchers, clinicians, a theatre professional and filmmakers. The purpose of the films is to show the importance of empathetic and compassionate communication skills when nurses are challenged by patients who are experiencing mental illness, dementia or are distressed and may have difficulties communicating effectively. The films use a sliding door approach where examples of poor communication are contrasted against examples of best practice communication to show how health outcomes are improved when best practice is used.

The films are developed to present to reflect the diversity of Western Sydney and depict stories from across the lifespan.

1. A nurse demonstrates compassionate and empathetic communication when caring for a person who is considering self harm or suicide.
2. A student nurse develops a therapeutic relationship with an Aboriginal man who has dementia in Emergency.
3. A nurse calms a woman from a CALD background who is distressed by her current life circumstances, and her perception regarding the way she is treated when she presents to the GP.
4. An inexperienced nurse struggles to provide the right care to an African family whose baby is dying in the neonatal intensive care unit.

The cast is made up of nursing academics who reflect the different cultural groups and the scenarios represent areas of need.

Each of these films presents a snapshot of nursing in the 2020's and they will develop into historical artifacts that can be analysed by future historians looking at past healthcare dilemmas.