

PhD Confirmation Seminar: Caroline Ong

How is Moral Distress Experienced by Community Specialist Palliative Care Health Professionals?

Supervisors:

Ros McDougall, Senior Lecturer in Health Ethics, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Global and Population Health at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Marilys Guillemin, Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS), University of Melbourne. Professor, Centre for Health Equity, School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne.

Associate Professor Eleanor Flynn, Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

Date: Wednesday, 29th November 2017 from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm

Venue: Seminar Room 410, Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

Have you ever had sleepless nights wondering if you did the right thing?

Moral distress is the distress caused when one is forced to act in ways perceived as morally wrong based on one's worldview and context. It is a significant phenomenon in healthcare, which if left unattended, can negatively affect the well-being of the health professional, lead to poor outcomes for patients, the organisation and even the larger health sector. Whilst much is known about moral distress in nurses in acute care, little is known about how moral distress is experienced by community healthcare professionals specialising in palliative care. This ethnographic study aims to contribute significantly to filling this gap in the understanding of the moral distress phenomenon.

Caroline Ong is a PhD research student at the Centre for Health Equity, a part-time general medical practitioner and a Sister of Mercy. After over 20 years in general practice she pursued further studies in ethics completing her MA Bioethics and Health Policy in Chicago. She serves on a number of ethics committees and holds a fellowship with the RACGP. She is passionate about the possibility of a more integrated approach to medicine, ethics and life in general!

