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| **Consensus on priorities for respiratory nurses as a specialised field** |
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| **Introduction/Aim:** Respiratory nurses are integral to lung health of Australians and New Zealanders and are essential to the success of national and international health strategies. The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Respiratory Nursing Position Statement advocated for recognition of respiratory nursing as a specialisation for development of future generations. In 2022 a TSANZ working party of expert senior nurses was formed to identify those priorities of highest importance in advocating for recognising respiratory nursing as a field of specific expertise in Australia and New Zealand.**Methods:** A cross-sectional online Delphi consensus survey was delivered over two rounds using a purposive sample of leading respiratory nurse clinicians, managers, educators, and/or researchers. In Round 1, experts rated the generated priority statements on a 7-point Likert scale. In Round 2, respondents were provided with mean item scores and provided opportunity to rank statements to finalise consensus on those of highest priority. Consensus cut-off was set at ≥75%. **Results:** 104 Round 1 and 56 Round 2 participants from all Australian states and NZ regions engaged in the Delphi survey. 14 priority statements were confirmed by consensus, with 3 overarching themes: 1) defining respiratory nursing as a field of specific expertise; 2) raising the profile and influence of nurses within TSANZ, and broader national and international policy; and 3) articulating education and career development frameworks as a roadmap to specialisation. **Conclusion:** The mission of respiratory nurses to work strategically, lead, support and enable safe, quality care through recognition as integral leaders within respiratory health care was endorsed. Establishing priorities through this consensus process supports the pathways of future nurses into respiratory nursing, and retains nurses as integral to Australian and New Zealand health strategy. |
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