

“GIVEN THE RIGHT SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, I’LL BREAK THE RULES EVERY TIME”: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF ABORTION ANARCHY IN AUSTRALIA.

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Background:

Access to abortion care is often stymied by distance, politics, and religious interference. Obstacles like these can have a compounding impact on vulnerable people's physical and mental health.

A recent study of nurses and midwives found that participants would participate in clinical anarchy – law/policy-breaking, undermining cultural norms - to help people in gender-based violence contexts access person-centred abortion care.

This presentation extends that study and explores the situational elements in the abortion arena that lead to anarchy.

Methods:

We investigated the broader situational elements using an extension of the constructivist grounded theory method: situational analysis. 18 Australian clinicians who work in abortion-care contexts were interviewed regarding their experiences. Transcripts were analysed using situational maps to identify the broader situation that affects clinical care.

Results:

Most clinicians felt that the health system did not cater to the needs of their patients. They describe a workforce unprepared to provide abortion care, generally, and gender-based violence interventions more specifically. Clinicians found that their pro-life colleagues centred their own needs in the therapeutic relationship, which obstructed quality care. Furthermore, many revealed that the workplace environments placed clinicians’ and patients’ in physical danger

Conclusion:

The broader healthcare environment places many barriers in the way of clinicians who provide abortion care. Health care services should implement streamlined evidence-based and trauma-informed abortion pathways that take full advantage of nurses and midwives' skills, knowledge, and potential.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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