



Sterilisation Passion or Profession ?

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IN THIS PRESENTATION

- Discuss why CSSD Managers and Technicians are so passionate about their work
- Define the term profession
- Describe the methods for assisting a profession to become recognised
- Consider whether there is any opportunity for achieving international recognition of our specialty area

PASSION


- A strong feeling or emotion
 - Boundless enthusiasm for something or
 - The object of boundless enthusiasm
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- Collins On-line Dictionary



PASSION

**“Nothing great in the world has ever
been accomplished without passion.”**

Georg Wilhem Friedrich Hegel

- 
- Are you and your colleagues passionate about your work?
 - What inspires such passion?

Mental stimulation

Making a difference for our patients

Something new to learn every day

Continually striving to improve

We can always find ways of doing our job better

Continuous Challenges


Always interesting and never dull

PROFESSION

“a profession is a group of people in a learned occupation (that) agree to abide by specified rules of conduct...”

- One of the key characteristics of a profession is “working for the public good”.

Australian Council of Professions


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- Inherent in this definition is the concept that the responsibility for the welfare, health and safety of the community shall take precedence over other considerations.

Australian Council of Professions



LET ME ASK YOU THIS...

- Do you think the personnel working in sterile services could be categorised as a profession?



YES

WHAT IS A PROFESSION?

- 'A disciplined group of individuals who adhere to high ethical standards and uphold themselves to, and are accepted by, the public as possessing **special knowledge and skills** in a widely recognised, organised body of learning derived from **education and training at a high level**, and who are prepared to exercise this knowledge and these skills in the interest of others.

- Australian Council of Professions

- “There is a growing trend to regulate healthcare workers below the level of the traditional professional”
 - Health Professions Council
- "There are usually other issues to be considered during the consultation process such as the **qualification** that will become the **minimum standard** for entry into the profession and **the definition of the title** that would be used for the profession.”

STERILISING SERVICES PERSONNEL

- In many countries Sterilising Services Managers are:
 - Pharmacists
 - Microbiologists
 - Engineers
 - Nurses
- “Floor” personnel
 - Health care attendants
 - Nursing attendants
 - Technicians
 - Aides

HEALTH PROFESSION REGISTRATION WORLD-WIDE

- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Doctors
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Dentists
- Paramedics
- Psychologists
- Optometrists
- Osteopaths
- Chiropractors
- Speech Therapists
- Dieticians
- Biomedical Scientists
- Podiatrists
- Radiographers
- Prosthetist /orthoptist

REGISTRATION AS A HEALTH PROFESSION?

Aspirant groups must:

- Cover a discrete area of activity displaying some homogeneity
- **Apply a defined body of knowledge and practice based on evidence of efficacy**
- Have at least one established professional body which accounts for a significant proportion of that occupational group
- Operate a voluntary **register**
- **Have defined routes of entry to the profession**
- Have independently assessed entry qualifications
- **Have standards in relation to conduct, performance and ethics**
- Have Fitness to Practice procedures to enforce those standards
- **Be committed to continuous professional development (CPD)**

- Health Professions Council UK

WHY HAVE A REGISTRATION BODY?

- "The primary reason for professional registers is the protection of the public."

Health Professions Council UK

- 
- What would we call ourselves?

Decontamination Scientist

Instrument Technician

Decontamination Technician

Central Service Technician

Reprocessing Technician

RUMED Technician

SPD Professional

CSSD Technician

Sterilising Technician

Sterilising Services

Sterile Processing Centre

Central Sterile Supply Department


Decontamination Unit

Reprocessing Facility

Sterile Processing Department

RUMED – Reprocessing Unit for Medical Devices

Healthcare Materials Management

- 
- What would be the minimum standard of education?
 - Managers / Supervisors / Technicians
 - What training has been completed in South Africa after the first IDSc training course?

IN THE UK

- Institute of Decontamination Sciences [IDSc]
 - Certification for Technicians and Managers
 - There have been MSc programs for Decontamination Sciences
- Institute for Healthcare Engineers and Estates
 - Courses for Test Persons up to Authorising Engineers [AED]

IN THE USA

- International Association for Healthcare Central Service Materials Management [IAHCSMM]
 - Certification
- Some US states require registration of Central Service Technicians

IN NEW ZEALAND

- Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act
 - NZSSA is encouraging members to register with them first
 - Achieving formal government recognition of the profession and subsequent registration of NZSSA Technicians
 - Qualifications now being offered up to a Diploma level

IN AUSTRALIA

- Many states and territories have their own registration bodies and legislation under which these operate
- Call for national registration systems for health practitioners / professionals
- Establishment of a framework for recognition of new professions required
 - Sterilising Technicians are not a recognised professional group
- Qualifications being offered only vocational in nature

WHAT LEVEL IS THE RIGHT LEVEL?

- Vocational Qualification
- Diploma
- Degree
- Post Graduate Certificate
- Post Graduate Diploma
- Masters
- PhD

THE FUTURE?

- Increasing recognition of the specialist knowledge and skills required to safely and effectively reprocess (decontaminate) reusable medical devices may lead to the development and recognition of this field as a health care profession in its own right...irrespective of the country we work in....

THE FUTURE...

CFSA

- There are already established professional bodies in many countries that represent workers in this specialised field

NZSSA

ICAN

IDSc

MSSA

FSRACA

DGSV

CAMDR

IACSHMM

THE FUTURE?

- Each country can explore the opportunity for recognition as a profession in their own right
 - We meet many of the criteria described by the HPC UK
- If enough countries follow this path then international recognition may follow....

THE FUTURE...

- Development of minimum competency standards for technician and management level personnel and education programs to support these is the first step
 - Already exists in some countries or is in the process of development
 - Commitment and process for recording CPD

World Federation for Hospital Sterilisation Sciences

Offers standardized training programs for member countries

PROFESSION

- **“Your profession is not what brings home your paycheck. Your profession is what you were put on earth to do with such passion and intensity that it becomes spiritual in calling.”**

Attributed to Virgil



AND FINALLY....

- **“When work, commitment, and pleasure all become one and you reach that deep well where passion lives, nothing is impossible.”**

Anon