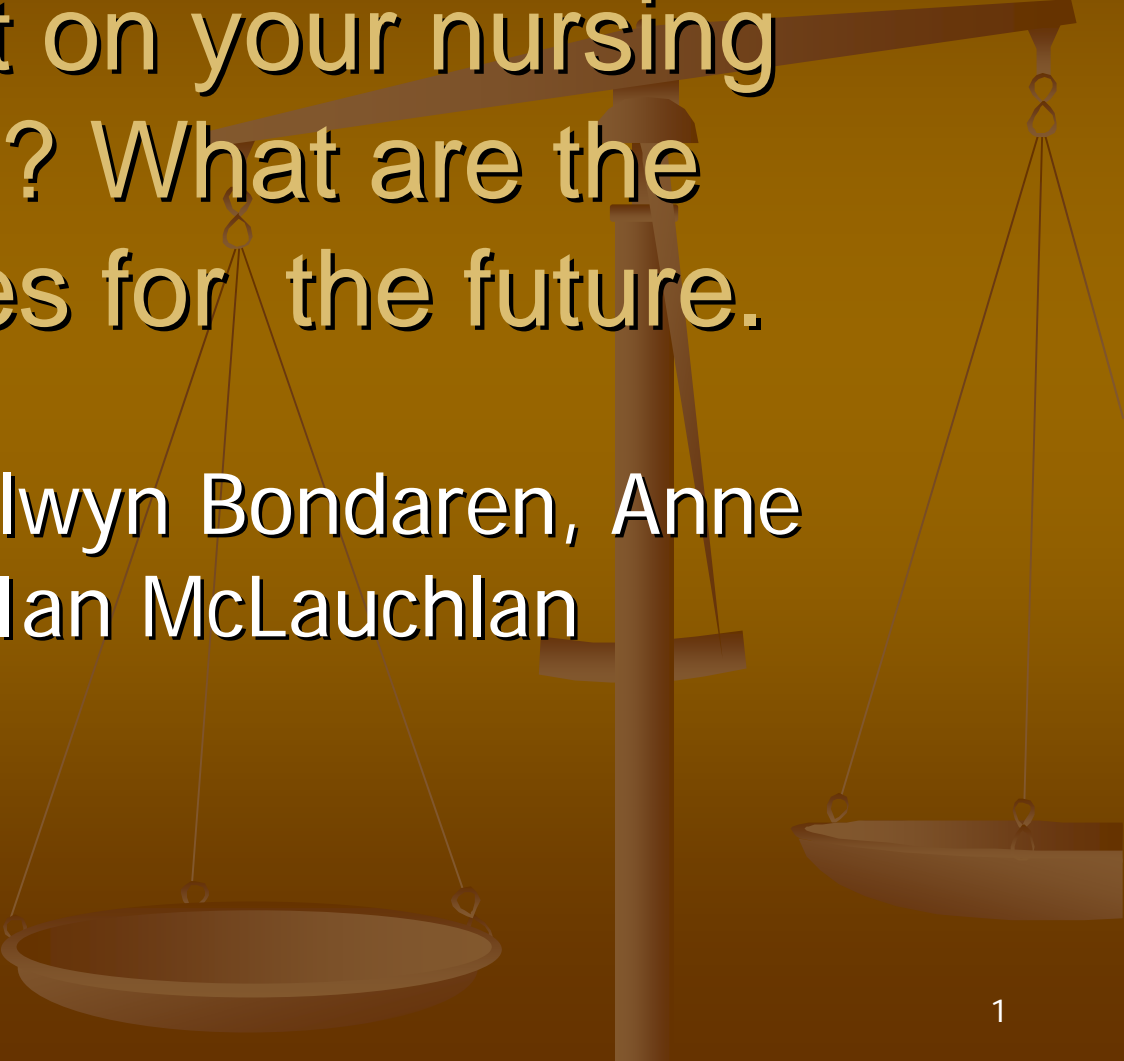


Do the legal obligations of the Duly Authorised Officer role have an impact on your nursing practice? What are the challenges for the future.



Presenters Alwyn Bondaren, Anne Begg, Ian McLauchlan

# Why ask these questions?



- We wanted to find out if being a DAO presented challenges for nurses.
- What nurses were doing to address these challenges
- What training and support nurses identified as being helpful.

# Who are DAOs

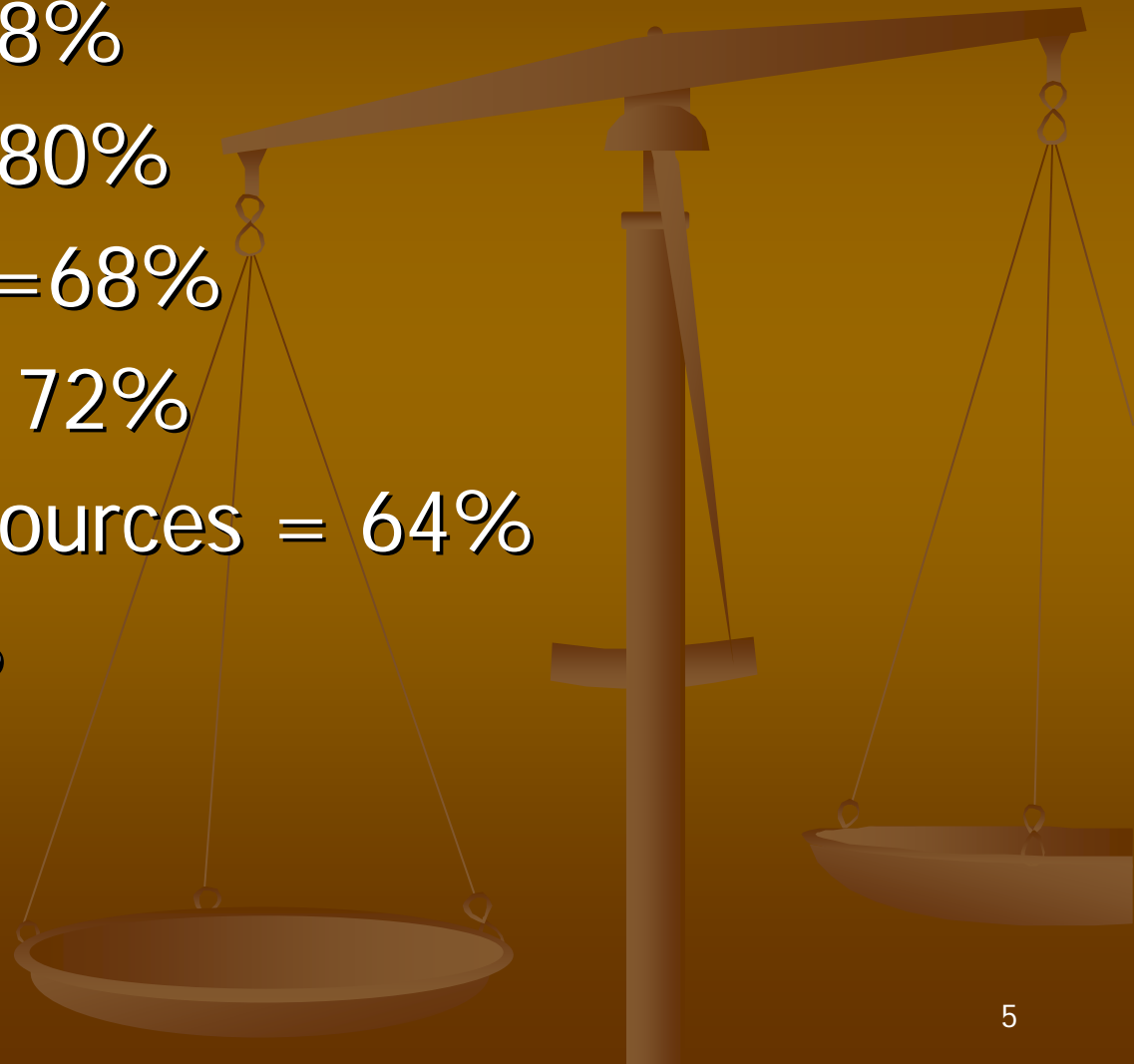
- 90% over 40 yrs old, half over 50.
- 2:1 female to male.
- Majority identified as Euro/Pakeha. 3 Maori/Pakeha DAOs. None identified as Polynesian.
- Almost 90% nursing for 11 or more years.
- 2:1 RPN to RComp.

# DAOs cont.

- Work in urban DHB 40%, and rural/urban DHBs 60%.
- Work in crisis teams 48%, CMHT's 16%, Crisis/CMHT 16% Court Liaison 8%, Inpatient 4%, other 4%, missing 4%.
- 56% reported choosing to be DAO 32% did not choose the role 8% undecided, missing 4%.

# Challenges identified by respondents

- A. Physical = 68%
- B. Emotional = 80%
- C. Professional = 68%
- D. Legal = 72%
- E. Access to resources = 64%
- F. Other = 52%



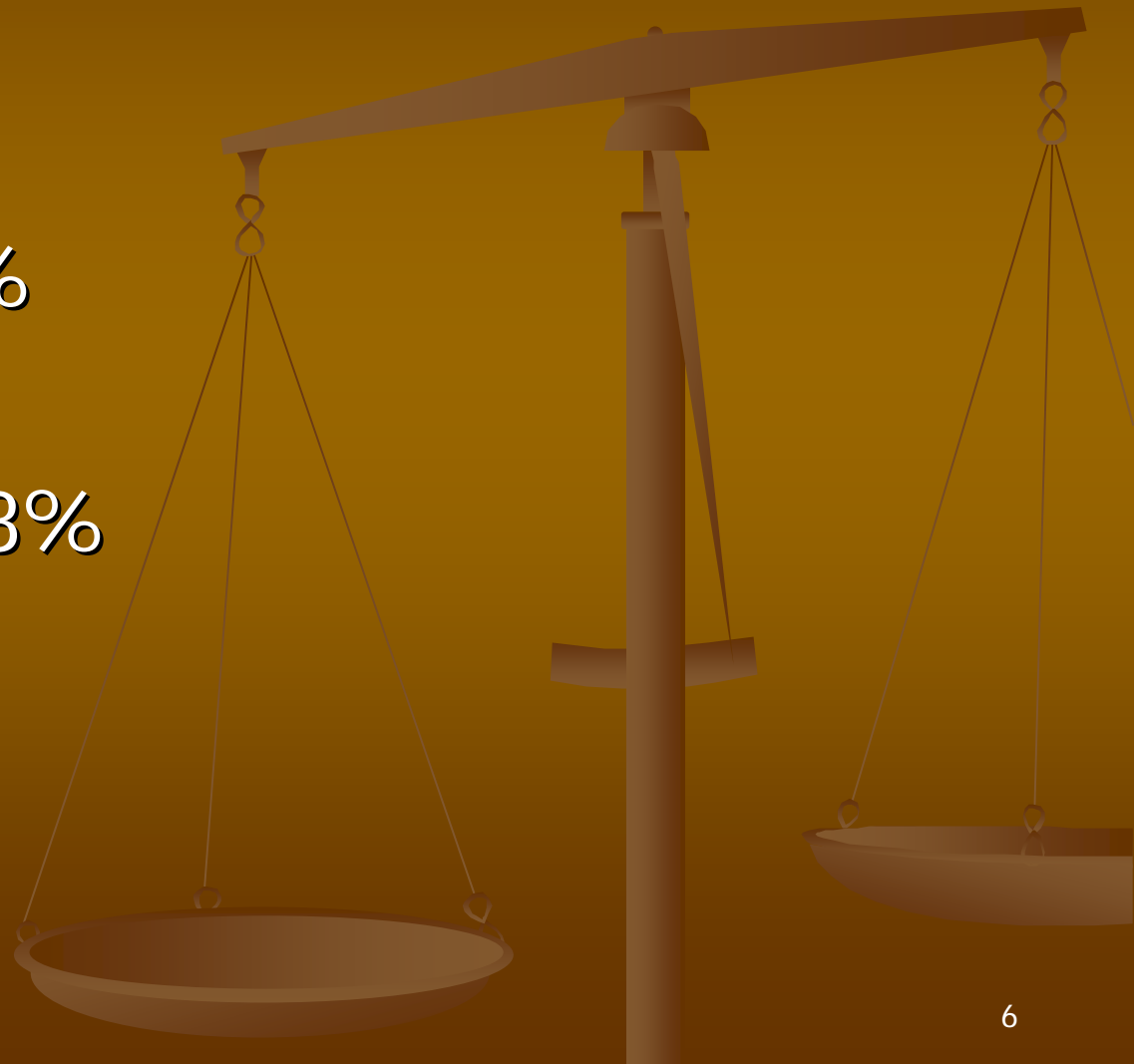
# Interventions and strategies.

88% response

Successful 68%

Unsuccessful 8%

Both 24% !



# Supervision available to DAOs

- 100% response
- Regular supervision Yes=40% No= 60%
- Type of supervision Group = 12%  
Individual = 48%  
Both = 20%  
Missing = 20%

# DAO training

- Does DAO training meet the needs?
- Yes = 40 %
- No = 32%
- Both = 20%
- Missing 8%



# Key Findings.

- Aging workforce i.e. 50% of respondents over 50yrs old.
- Female to male ratio 2:1.
- Lack of Maori/Pacifica DAOs.
- Only 1 DAO identified working in inpatient setting.
- Being DAO emotionally stressful and demanding.
- Lack of professional development for DAOs
- The role needs experienced nurses.

# Conclusion

- Results indicate an aging workforce, predominantly female, euro/pakeha, and hospital trained. Most have extensive experience in mental health nursing and of the DAO role (majority had been DAOs since 1992).
- The DAOs identified challenges including; assaults; threats, and abuse from patients, family and others, long hours and sleepless nights. Over  $\frac{3}{4}$  identified fear, anxiety, anger and sadness as emotions they had to deal with in the role. They spoke of inadequate resources, poor support systems, pressure from others and the changing interpretations of the MHA as further challenges.
- Clinical supervision and support from colleagues within their team was the most helpful strategy identified.
- A lack of appropriate training was a concern in some areas surveyed.