

I trained as a Registered Nurse in Zimbabwe (1997) and hold a postgraduate Diploma in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Certificate in Clinical forensic Nursing (University of Colorado), Masters Degree in Nursing (Mental Health) and a Masters of Forensic Mental Health (UNSW). I am currently in the final semester of study for the Master of Health Leadership and Management (University of Wollongong). I worked as forensic nurse examiner doing Autopsies, sexual assault examinations and collecting evidence from victims of torture and submitted reports and evidence to the courts. I was also a District mental health co-ordinator in the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe, being the only mental health nurse in a district of over 20,000 people with no psychiatrist before migrating to Australia in 2004. Within the Dept of Justice Health, I worked as a mental health nurse at the MRRC-MHSU for 3 years and was later appointed as NUM for the women's unit at the Forensic Hospital at Long Bay.

Undertaking the Master's of Forensic Mental Health not only strengthened my position as a Mental Health/Forensic Nurse but has broadened my skills as a member of the multidisciplinary team in the care and management of forensic patients. My role as a Nurse Unit Manager of the women's unit is quite complex and challenging especially working with women who have severe personality disorders as well as mental illness. I now also understand the legal issues better that are so often involved in caring for this special patient group. My network of colleagues has increased to include different professional backgrounds such as lawyers, police, prosecutors and lecturers. This network is very important and as a Nurse Manager allows me to liaise with ease with a number of services. The learning experience from the MFMH program influenced my decision to proceed with the M.Phil Forensic Mental Health degree leading to a PhD and I look forward to an exciting career in the emerging field of forensic mental health.



Mrs. Mildred Chiduku and Cephass Chiduku
(2010 MFMH Graduation UNSW)