



MONASH University
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Presented by:
Joan C.-Y. Hsu
PhD Candidate

Supervisors:
Professor Margaret O'Connor
Dr. Susan Lee

The needs of Chinese-Australian people in palliative care services

Design and Methodology

1. Methodology -- Case Study

- Investigate a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context,
- The boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident.

(Yin, 2003)



Design and Methodology (cont.)

2. Selection of subjects

- 1) Families from a Chinese culture whose members are Australian citizens living in Melbourne metropolitan area,
- 2) Their older terminally ill member aged 50 years and over requires palliative care services (Group 1),



Design and Methodology (cont.)

- 3) Family members are aged 18 years and over (Group 2),

and
- 4) Mandarin or English speaking



Design and Methodology (cont.)

3. Participants (6 cases)

- 3 cases: Group 1 (patient-participants)
- 3 cases: Group 2 (family-participants)

4. Sources

- Palliative care home services and inpatients
- Chinese cancer support group



Data Collection and Analysis

Data

- Interviews
- Direct observations
- Physical or cultural artefacts

Analysis

- Thematic analysis



Results

1. Chinese cultural perspectives on death and dying
 - Tien Ming (天命) is the central belief about lifespan



Results (cont.)

2. The integration of Western and Chinese health care for dying people

- The health beliefs of Chinese people
- The consumption of traditional Chinese medicine



Results (cont.)

- The involvement of family members in caring the in-patients
- The meaning of Chinese food for Chinese people



Results (cont.)

3. Communication with Chinese people

- Understandings focused on the needs of improving patient's physical comfort
- Correct and complete communication in English
- Communication between people with different cultural backgrounds



Conclusion

- Culture and language are the main issues
- Chinese traditions, religions and responsibility are diverse in people with Chinese background
- Understanding needs through communication



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Thank you

Email: joancyhsu@hotmail.com

