

Abstract

This research dissertation focuses on the findings drawn from a grounded theory research study which explored the professional and personal impact experienced by the male therapist when working in the therapeutic process with the narrative from male survivors of historical child sexual abuse. The data was gathered for this qualitative research study from four interviews with senior trainers and /or qualified integrative therapists by means of semi-structured questions and supportive prompts which were then transcribed. On completion of transcription a grounded theory method of analysis was used to compile findings from the data.

From investigating the phenomenon, information and evidence transpired that illuminate how the impact and experiences were encountered by the male therapist when working in the environment of voluntary clinical practice with this specific client group. It is acknowledged therapists' ethical therapeutic intent is to work for the client's best interests by attending regular supervision as a duty of care taken for self and others. Despite this evidence shows that therapists still can suffer and loose a sense of wellbeing, hence the research considers the elements that may contribute to this phenomena.

This data initially indicates how stereotypical views of child abuse and males that are held in a societal domain influence the therapists approach and towards the design of a services framework, therefore how provision is implemented for the male therapists. The process essentially moulds the quality and essence of the environmental work space, and in turn how this may be reflected in the male therapist's ability to maintain the capacity to work with the fullness of his professional resources, when engaged in clinical practice with a client.