

Public Concern at Work
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PCAW / Nursing Standard whistleblowing survey

	Percents	Absolute
Q1 In the past three years, have you had a concern about a serious risk to patient safety?		
Yes	68.2%	513
No	31.8%	239
Q2 If yes, did you raise the concern?		
Yes	86.7%	445
No	13.3%	68
Q3 Who did you raise your concern with?		
Line manager	42.7%	190
Team leader	17.5%	78
Senior Management	20.4%	91
Union	2.2%	10
Regulator / Department of Health	1.1%	5
Patient or Patients Family	0.7%	3
Media	0.0%	0
Multiple	15.3%	68
Q4 How do you think the risk to patient safety was handled?		
Well – the patient safety issue was properly addressed or resolves	28.8%	128
Fairly – the patient safety issue was fairly considered but I did not agree with the outcome	20.0%	89
Badly – the patient safety issue was ignored, covered up or not addressed	47.2%	210
Don't know	4.0%	18
Q5 Did you personally suffer any serious or lasting negative professional consequences?		
Yes	38.2%	170
No	61.8%	275

Q6 Did the serious risk you identified eventually cause harm to patients?

Yes	23.2%	119
No	45.2%	232
Don't know	31.6%	162

Q7 If next week you were to have a concern about a serious risk to patient safety would you raise it?

Yes	85.1%	640
No	5.1%	38
Don't know	9.8%	74

Q8. Which three factors would you say most deter nurses from raising a concern about patient safety?

It is just a suspicion	22.1%	166
"I'm only a nurse"	11.2%	84
Someone else will raise it	19.7%	148
Not wanting to get colleagues) into trouble	49.6%	373
Fear of being seen as a "snitch" by colleagues	47.6%	358
Fear of dismissal or discipline	45.7%	344
Nothing will be done anyway	57.6%	433
Not knowing who to talk to	21.9%	165
It doesn't feel safe	24.6%	185

Q9. Would you say your employer does enough to promote whistleblowing?

Yes	21.1%	159
No	59.7%	449
Don't know	19.1%	144

Q10 Has your organisation used its whistleblowing arrangements to discourage staff from raising a concern?

Yes	16.9%	127
No	30.1%	226
Don't know	53.1%	399

Q11 Has a colleague in your organisation used whistleblowing to protect their own position or pursue a private agenda?

Yes	20.3%	153
No	21.0%	158
Don't know	58.6%	441

Q12 If you raised a concern about patient safety and suffered reprisals from your manager or team, how confident are you your organisation would try to remedy the situation?

Very Confident	5.9%	44
Quite Confident	23.3%	175
Not V. Confident	30.9%	232

Not at all Confident	32.6%	245
Don't know	7.4%	56

Q13 Compared to three years ago, how would you describe the culture for raising concerns in your workplace?

Much better	11.7%	88
Slightly better	23.1%	174
About the same	42.0%	316
Worse	14.4%	108
Much worse	8.8%	66

Q14 How would you describe your organisation's relationship with its staff?

Very open	4.8%	36
Open	33.6%	253
Not very open	44.4%	334
Closed	17.2%	129

Q15 How would you describe your organisation's relationship with the public?

Very open	6.1%	46
Open	43.1%	324
Not very open	42.0%	316
Closed	8.8%	66