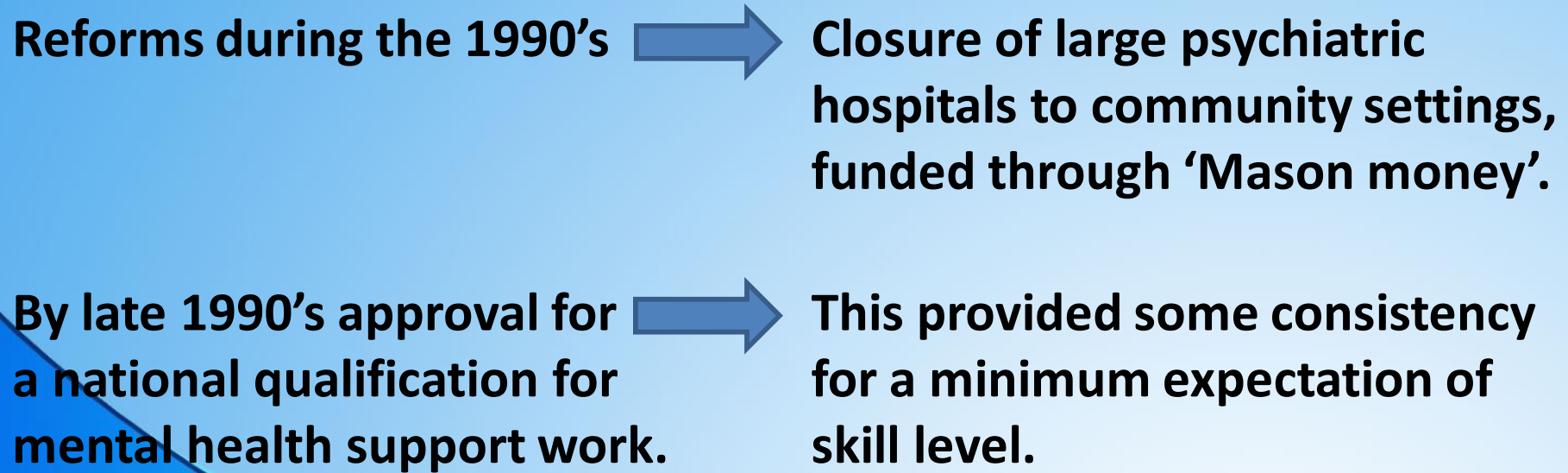




**Did we miss the wave
mental health support workers - could we have
done things differently?**

Julia Hennessy and Frances Hughes

Creating perfect storm



Sticking a toe in the water

- **Development of local qualifications by education providers – no consistency**
- **What were the monitoring agencies expecting**
- **Limited protection for mental health consumers**

Get the sand out of your togs/cosies/bathers

- **More oversight of quality of education providers**
- **More oversight of service providers**
- **Reviewing the model of service provision**
- **Regulation through either self regulation or requirement of regulation under a regulatory body.**

What should we have done differently

- **Established a professional body for mental health support workers**
- **Engaged more with other health professionals**
- **Provided funding for ongoing development**
- **Had an agreed career pathway for mental health professionals**
- **Supported research into MHSW contribution to mental health services.**

REFERENCE

Smythe, E., Hennessy, J., Abbott, M. and Hughes, F. (2017). Do professional boundaries limit trust?. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*. DOI: 10.1111/inm.12319

SUMMARY OF ARTICLE

HOW MUCH CONTROL ARE WE WILLING TO SHARE WITH 'OTHERS', ESPECIALLY SOMEONE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS?

THE STORIES WITHIN THE STUDY ARE OF EVERYDAY BEING WITHIN A HUMAN-TO-HUMAN CONNECTEDNESS

NON-REGULATED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS MIGHT TRUST AND BE TRUSTED IN WAYS THAT THEIR PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES ARE NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE. IF THAT IS TRUE, IT IS NOT ABOUT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, BUT ABOUT THE MANTLE OF PROFESSIONALISM THAT SOMEHOW GETS IN THE WAY

PROFESSIONALISM HAS CREATED A BOUNDARY TO PROTECT BOTH NURSE AS PERSON AND PATIENT. YET IT SEEMS THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS IN THE PRESENT STUDY CHOSE WHEN IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO SET ASIDE SUCH BOUNDARIES, TO BECOME MORE OPEN THEMSELVES