

A photograph of two hands, one slightly larger than the other, cupping a small, light-colored wooden heart. The hands are positioned on the left side of the frame, with the fingers gently supporting the heart. The background is a solid light blue color, with a diagonal orange shape in the top-left corner.

Occupational therapists engaging with poverty – an ethical approach

Heidi Cathcart (Otago Polytechnic)

Professor Mary Butler (Adelaide University)

Introduction

An ethical approach to engaging with poverty is less about what we do, and more about who we are in the doing.

What are we talking about when we talk about poverty?

1. Absolute and Relative Poverty
2. Wicked problems
3. Social determinants of health
4. Capabilities approach

What does occupational therapy literature say about poverty?

Theoretical approaches

- Social and occupational justice

Bailliard, 2020; Durocher et al, 2014; Hammell, 2017; Hammell & Beagan, 2017; Hocking, 2017; Hocking & Townsend, 2015; Malfitano & Lopes, 2018; Townsend & Marvel, 2013; Townsend & Wilcock, 2004

- Human rights and occupational rights

Galheigho, 2011; Hammell, 2008, 2015, 2017; Hammell & Iwama, 2012; Watson & Duncan, 2010

Addressing Specific Issues

- Child poverty; homelessness; unemployment; food insecurity; youth; aging in place; marginalised populations; mental health; rural poverty; low- and middle-income countries; underserved communities;
- Person perspective
- Intervention perspective

Research



Research Question:

How are occupational therapists in Aotearoa New Zealand engaging with issues of poverty?

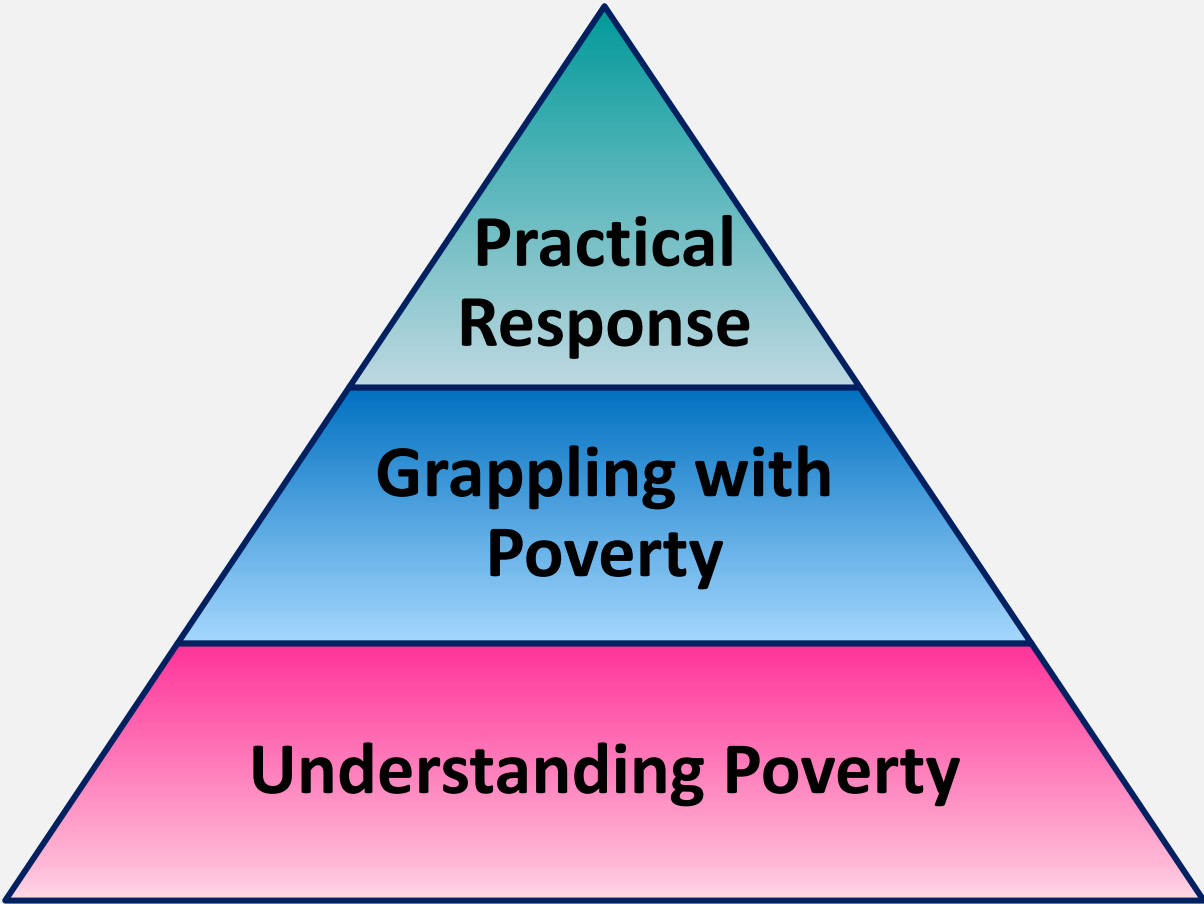
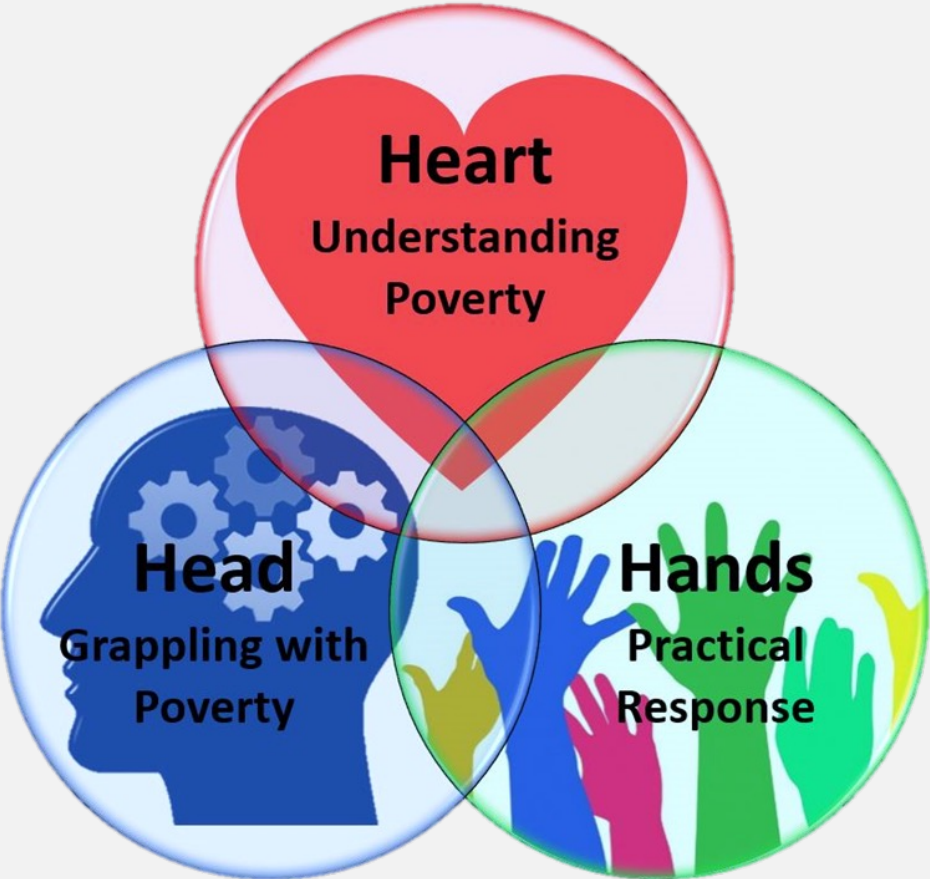
Research Aims:

- To better understand the issue of poverty from an occupational therapy perspective
- To understand how occupational therapists in New Zealand are engaging with issues of poverty within existing roles.
- To explore new ways for occupational therapists to engage with issues of poverty in New Zealand.

Methodology:

- Interpretive description; Interviews with nine occupational therapists

Engaging holistically and ethically



***Now that
I have seen
I am
responsible***



Who are you as a person and as a therapist when you encounter poverty?



How do you respond?



For more information, contact me via email
Heidi.Cathcart@op.ac.nz



The Thesis presentation is based on is available here:
<https://online.op.ac.nz/industry-and-research/research/otago-polytechnic-research-repository-opres/occupational-therapy-theses/engaging-with-poverty-a-new-zealand-occupational-therapy-perspective>

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