

From Paradox to Absurdity

August 2006

Camchron 5

The Mest-Absurdaphor Yet!

(A cathartic literary Outpouring of Acid, designed to make you think, and me feel better..)

In 6 weeks or so, I hope to depart the graceless state of 'Struck-Offness' and can become a Mental Health Nurse again: There is some kind of ritual I have to go through apparently.....I must promise to be very good in future and not do it again, and sincerely apologise to all concerned. I must prostrate myself (metaphorically speaking).....A Penitent, Rehabilitated. Oh yes, and my professional practice must be monitored.....a micro-chip implant of some sort I imagine...

Please don't get the idea that I'm embittered.

No, not at all... I think there **should** be shame for the De-Registered Nurse. I've always taken my professional life very seriously, and to be found guilty of professional misconduct is a shameful thing.

Today I discovered something that provoked a slight lapse of the "Personalized Sub-judicial-Risk Minimization Plan" .....formulated on the hoof around the summer streets of Rotorua with my Lawyer, foam-cup cappuccinos' and sandwiches.....

It appears that my High Court Appeal against **De-Registration** by Nursing Council will be scheduled at roughly the same time as I am allowed to apply for **Re- Registration** by Nursing Council. (Sept/Nov)

*"Ere..excuse me yer Honer me lud... Wiv due respect.....ders bin a mistake...yer see....., I've already done me Porridge Guv.....done a one year lag in The Profestonville Isolayton Unit:..... kept in solitary for the whole stretch I was.....apart from the few letters I managed to smuggle out..... Wiv all respect and that like.....I reckon you jokers must ave got things round in the wrong order, in the first place .....so to speak... by mistake I suppose.....*

*.....So anyway your Majesty...., I'm none to happy about the whole messy pile..... and I've decided.... because of all the circumstances..... to frow meseln' on the mercy of the High Court about the complete business..... because of the situation..... yer see .... .....Sir.....Guvnor"...*

With regard to the High Court Appeal against the decision by PPC Nursing Council my Brief advises : "I have a strong legal argument with a reasonable chance of success(basically it seems you have to have this in order to get legal aid in the first place...) I believe his summation to be accurate. When you are on legal-aid the only way to bridge the inequity of

an opposition with greater resources, is to do a lot of the footwork yourself.....your Lawyer is only funded for limited hours..... One of my few good habits is a study one, and I've read enough law now to understand the strength of my legal argument.

**In the light of that understanding should my Appeal to The High Court fail and my De-Registration stands: I will proceed to the Court of Appeal.**

Now I know that I'm at risk of getting ahead of my reading here, but if you hang around a professional group for a prolonged period, you sort of get a sense of what it's all about.....and the way I see it presently is:

"I have a strong legal argument with a reasonable chance of success."

Right.

The same issues can be reviewed by The Court of Appeal, and ultimately by The Supreme Court of New Zealand. Bottom line for me then is to trust in the legal system of our democracy and continue this journey .I can't begin to imagine what will happen should a **favourable** outcome eventuate..... you could add another '2 yr stretch in the P.I.U.' considering that I 'De-Frocked' myself *ms*, when I was sacked for being unsafe to practice.

*Note:*

*I am spontaneously becoming aware that referring to the phrase 'metaphorically speaking' is irritating me.... and more likely, you also.....For the sake of expediency I shall hereon refer to said phrase as "ms".*

Incidentally it really is murder in there you know.....The P.I.U. Hardly anybody in academia returns your e/mails other than the courageous and professional few..... you discover the true nature of discrimination.....you encounter the hypocrisy and vested interests of competing academics..... the incompetence and dangerousness of processes supposedly designed to protect safety..... you discover the corrupt nature of advisory group knitting circles.....you encounter the weasel-power of female lawyers who have taken it upon themselves to make decisions about fundamental nursing ethics.....( Come on now! ....Aren't we as 'Professional Nurses' supposed to decide all that?).....

You discover that your professional representing body actively resists the concept of a professional discussion forum, and indeed actively seeks to suppress professional debate.

You discover many ugly and disturbing things in The P.I.U.

**Thank goodness that the rank and file of New Zealand Registered Nurses demonstrate fundamental Nursing Ethics in their practice, keeping the Global Nursing Identity alive and well in New Zealand despite all.....**

It has been my experience that some in Nursing Academia and Nursing Governance are intent on destroying it, subverting it into a political tool to achieve exclusive agendas, misrepresenting and misunderstanding international nursing theory in order to promote gender and race-based ideologies,.... sealing themselves and others in a cocoon of absurdity, myth and self-congratulation... seemingly oblivious as the rest of the Real Nursing World struggles on:

The 'bubble-people' *ms*, avidly compete for the glittering prizes of international publication, personal and political recognition: awarded no doubt for evidence-based nursing research, the current keystone of Nursing's Ivory Towers. Nothing wrong with research mind, ....it's just that in the frontline of mental health care the application of research data has limited application.....once the research process has been completed tested ,marketed and made 'safe' for application: the working environment has changed.....

Such is the nature of an evolving society.

Mental health care professionals tend to value your skills and wisdom, rather than your Masters' thesis. It is unfortunate the 'so encapsulated', have been blind to NZ evidence-based nursing **Evidence** for the last three years... vis-a vis mine!

To be fair I've met some good folk that haven't been..... but they seem so few as to be ineffective..... Perhaps I can burst the bubble and bring about a healthy airing of reality to blow away the '*rank and foul*' ..... Perhaps those that retain a true Nursing focus will find room to breathe and stretch, shrug off the hopelessness that seems to pervade the profession..... Hope of hope! We could turn back toward Nursing ....not away from it!!.....Now there's an idea...there's no shortage of young blood,..... fine minds.....good people.

Reclaiming lost aspects of our nursing identity seems a worthwhile goal now that we have established Cultural Safety in the NZ Nursing Curriculum:

*"Ooo look! It's im, the cultural safety bloke! He's at it again! ...Committing heresy!"* .I can just hear the bubble people.....

Ever play the cyber-ego game? You know.... put your own name in the NZ Google search engine in order to bathe in yourself....very popular pursuit within the bubble apparently where they've established a league table.....

I get three hits. The third one says:

*"Despite Nursing Tutor Brian Stabb who tried hard to problematise cultural safety education at Waikato Polytechnic"*

Not that we aren't all entitled to our opinion but this is an internationally published Massey research thesis! ....and besides, there's no such word as problematise is there?

This is so untrue it hurts. The truth is that I fought to maintain Nursing Council's own standards of education with regard to the Mental Health Nursing Component of the Curriculum at Waikato Polytechnic. The fact that those standards were deliberately broken "was what I 'problematized"...

**All the relative facts were published within NZ's principal nursing journal KaiTiaki in July 95.**

Now to my way of thinking this is the deliberate distortion of history by an academic striving to achieve a political/personal goal..... it's this sort of thing that has always stopped me from enrolling at University.....shades of David Irving I reckon.....at least he waited for fifty years or so.....

I believe that Cultural Safety is an important part of the NZ Nursing Curriculum and should always be so. It is not however some sort of 'mystical core panacea' for NZ Nursing or NZ society, neither is it critically central to the Nursing Curriculum:

**Nursing is critically central to the Nursing Curriculum.**

Does that statement make me culturally unsafe again? Ah well.... excuse me for thinking.....

I fear that within the hierarchy of NZ Nursing, global nursing values and nursing's deep-rooted traditions are being sold out to political expediency and elitism. I personally experienced cultural-safety being used as a tool of oppression and abuse when I was a nursing tutor in the early nineties. However those were the early days of cultural safety education, and initially mistakes were made, as in other processes of significant change.

**Ten years on however the processes which led to my de-registration are initiated by Nursing Management with complaints of Cultural Inappropriateness', and of being 'Culturally Unsafe'.**

I expect the concept of cultural safety has been equally tarnished by others with personal agendas. It seems to me that Ramsden recognized the risk of this happening, and sought to prevent it. In twenty-first century NZ we must educate Nurses to protect **all** aspects of societal safety,

Subsequent to my involvement in the Select Committee Inquiry into Cultural Safety Education in Nursing 95 I met with Professor Paul Spoonley and Irahapeti Murchie in Hamilton.

I have few memories of Mr 'Spoonley other than his suit, his authoritarianism ,his platitudes and overall 'greyness'. To the contrary I was much affected by Irahapeti Murchie. We debated our views with a passion: in a nutshell I argued that a concept such as cultural safety had to be modeled by the people that taught it. At Waikato Polytech that concept was being built upon a foundation of malice, ignorance, and oppressive group behaviour.

I feared that this was reflected at other Polytechnics and would eventually cause great harm, both to cultural safety and the Nursing profession. I was reassured by Irahapeti Murchie. She demonstrated a full understanding of my concerns, she spoke of the difficulties involved in introducing such a dynamic concept, and the monitoring that would now take place as a result of the Inquiry. I was still hurting then, having lost a career valuable to me, I was not convinced and she knew it. Nevertheless she remained empathetic.

She 'stayed' and we talked on.

She didn't present as superior : she didn't quote statistical data: she expressed no frustration about power and control :she spoke in language I understood: there were no racial politics:

I warmed to her and was touched by her. When we eventually parted I shook hands, met her eyes and made her a promise . In the coming months I hope to make good on that promise.

So if the unimaginable happens..... and I am De-De-Registered, I'll just have to make sure that such a debacle does not happen to any other poor sod, and settle for that..... and I suppose to be fair to Nursing Council.....there is hardly a process for them to follow with regards to De-De-Registering a Nurse who has already been guillotined *ms*.

So such are my thoughts in this Cameo/Chronicle on today 22<sup>nd</sup> August.2006

My Supervisor tells me not to speculate about possible outcomes... quite right too..... not a mentally healthy trait at this particular juncture.....I probably warrant an extra visit next month.....

Brian S.