

In late 2001 an Investigation was conducted by retired Judge Gallen and the resulting recommendations accepted by the Government. Helen Clarke apologised to former inmates and a settlement of \$10.7 million was paid out in compensation between 183 people. Two former Nurses on the permanent staff between 72- 76 made statements at that time, myself, and one other. A number of others declined to be interviewed.

Dr.Selwyn Leeks continued to practice, both in Canada and Australia. Over the years he has become representative not only nationally, but internationally, of the abuse that has occurred in the guise of Psychiatry. This is perhaps now best represented by:

The Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatry –Statements of 2001

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

5 December 2001

### **PSYCHIATRISTS CALL ON LAKE ALICE VICTIMS TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is encouraging anyone who was adversely affected by treatment received as a patient of the Adolescent Unit at Lake Alice Hospital in the 1970s to lodge a complaint with either the Medical Council of New Zealand or the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria.

“As a profession, we are not prepared to stand by while such horrific allegations of abuse and torture are associated with our specialty. We are determined to have this matter resolved, once and for all,” Craig Glenroy Patterson, Executive Director of the RANZCP said.

“The Prime Minister and Health Minister in New Zealand have seen fit to

apologise to and to compensate the former ‘patients’ of the service operated by Dr Leeks. And yet, despite everything they have been through and all the allegations being made publicly about their experiences, no investigation into the role played by this doctor in the alleged practices has been successfully completed.”

“The Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria and the Medical Council of New Zealand are now the only bodies with the power to investigate these allegations and, if necessary, to act to prevent this doctor from continuing to practise.”

“It is clear to us now that the only way that justice will be served in relation to the alleged clinical practice of Dr Leeks is if the former ‘patients’ at Lake Alice make their cases to the statutory authorities,”

Mr Patterson said.

"We urge anyone in a position to do so to come forward to the statutory bodies and lodge a complaint."

"This is the only way we will ever achieve a satisfactory resolution to this matter; for the former 'patients' first and foremost, but also for the doctor concerned and for the profession."

"The College demands of its members the highest possible ethical and clinical standards and will do all that is legally possible to ensure that these standards are upheld."

- end -

**Contact:** Mr Craig Patterson  
Executive Director, RANZCP Cell phone (Australia)  
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There is one person who was entirely responsible for stopping the abusive use of ECT between 1974 -76, and it wasn't me...It was a Charge Nurse of great courage who challenged Medical Authority with Nursing Ethics...refusing to allow anything other than the legitimate medical use of ECT in his Ward. He acted as guide and mentor for me and several other younger Staff Nurses recently arrived from England. My idealism may well have waned without his support and commitment.

Now he is in his seventies and too tired and disillusioned to be involved further. He is a quiet, dignified person who has been deeply hurt over the years, likewise another good man who worked there: They are not required for further investigation and choose not to meet with police again.

There are other former Nurses from the earlier regime (1972-74) who the police are seeking to interview.... If they can find them....

As I understand I am the only Nurse left a who will voluntarily speak to the Police, the Courts, and anybody else interested enough to listen. I stand proud (but De Registered) that I have been true to my Nursing values and beliefs all these years.

What is the relevance to present day Nursing and health care?

It is a true story about NZ Nursing that is of national and international interest. It is about the most fundamental ethic at the core of all Nursing Philosophy, perhaps never so simplistically written as this but:

**Rule I – Registered Nurses do not abuse and torture folk: neither Clients nor Colleagues.**



MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BOARD  
of Victoria

20 July 2006

Mr Brian Stabb PO  
Box 17048 Omokoroa  
Beach 3021 Tauranga  
Bay of Plenty NEW  
ZEALAND

Dear Mr Stabb

I would like to formally advise you that the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria has received confirmation that Dr Selwyn Leeks has ceased all forms of medical practice, and has given an undertaking that he will not return to practice in this or any other jurisdiction.

As we have discussed with you in the past, the primary role of the Board is to protect the community. The Board believes that the community is protected by Dr Leeks' undertaking not to practise and has therefore decided not to proceed with the planned formal hearing into his professional conduct.

Dr Leeks has been advised, and he acknowledges, that if he breaches the undertaking he has given the Board, the Board will proceed with the formal hearing.

I would like to thank you for the courage you have shown in participating so generously in the investigation. The Board acknowledges the time, effort and assistance you have given throughout a demanding and extended process.

The Board's lawyers, Minter Ellison, will be contacting you shortly to resolve outstanding administrative matters related to the investigation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Ms Trudie Griffin, Senior Associate, Minter Ellison on +61 3 8608 2003 or Ms Janet Atkinson, Solicitor to the Board, on +61 3 9655 0500.

Yours sincerely

Ian FX Stoney

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Lake Alice doctor pre-empted tribunal**

Friday July 21, 2006  
By Martin Johnston

Dr Selwyn Leeks, the psychiatrist accused of mistreating young patients at Lake Alice Hospital in the 1970s, has effectively handed in his medical licence, on the eve of a potentially damning disciplinary hearing.

The elderly doctor, who had been practising in Melbourne, was to go before a disciplinary panel, accused of unprofessional conduct.

If he had been found guilty his medical registration could have been revoked.

The hearing by the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria panel was to start on Wednesday.

A five-year investigation of complaints from 50 former patients found a case to answer in respect of 16.

But on Tuesday Dr Leeks, who is in his mid-70s, gave the board an undertaking that he would stop practising any form of medicine.

Board spokeswoman Nicole Newton said last night this was effectively an international ban because to be registered elsewhere Dr Leeks would need a certificate of good standing from the Victorian board.

If he tried to resume practising, the hearing would be re-activated.

Dr Leeks, who could not be contacted last night, headed the hospital's child and adolescent unit, which closed in the late 1970s.

In 2001, the Government gave apologies and compensation to a group of former patients of the unit. It later extended these to a second group, bringing to \$10.7 million the total paid to 183 people.

This followed a report by retired judge Sir Rodney Gallen.

One of the complainants, a 45-year-old Auckland man, was last night jubilant, but would have preferred Dr Leeks to go through the hearing.

"The boys have been waiting nearly 30 years for this," said the man - who asked not to be named - in a reference to former patients.

He was admitted to Lake Alice, near Wanganui, several times between the ages of 11 and 16.

He was repeatedly punished with electro-convulsive therapy, painful drugs and solitary confinement for offences such as running away, throwing apples "and other boyish pranks".

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights, an anti-psychiatry group which uncovered abuses at Lake Alice in 1976 and has been helping with investigations since, said Dr Leeks had found an easy way out of the hearings after his "reign of terror on around 400 children, possibly as young as 4".

"This is the first time in nearly 30 years that so much evidence has been amassed in one place, including statements from victims and staff testifying to the brutality and fear they endured under Dr Leeks," said executive director Steve Green.

"It is up to the New Zealand police to see that justice is done for the victims of Lake Alice.

"Thirty-three people have filed criminal complaints so far."

The police are reviewing the complaints.

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