‘A kind of ritual Pākehā tikanga’ - Māori experiences of hospitalisation: A case study

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Abstract

Minimal literature exists relating to the experiences of Māori within the New Zealand public hospital system. Māori are highly represented in morbidity and mortality statistics and are high users of the secondary health care system. A Case Study methodology with a Māori centred approach was used to describe Māori experiences of hospitalisation. Multiple sources of evidence were gathered, including participant interviews, statistical data from the New Zealand Health Information Service, and international literature relating to indigenous experiences of hospitalisation. Eleven people (nine female and two males) identifying as Māori, of various iwi (tribal) affiliations and from a range of regions, participated in the interviews. All participants had either been admitted, or cared for by a family member who had been admitted to a medical or surgical ward in a public hospital anywhere in New Zealand within the last 15 years. Participants were aged between 20 to 75 years. All interviews were audio recorded, transcribed and then thematically analysed. A retrospective interrupted time series design was used to examine length of stay for Māori patients receiving treatment in the secondary medical and surgical setting, from 1989-2004. The data included the records of all medical and surgical discharges for Māori and non-Māori from the New Zealand public hospitals. Medical and surgical admissions were screened to include those over the age of 17 years and who had a length of stay greater than 1 day and less than 90 days. From the analysis of all the data three key interpretations emerged: 1. Māori are marginalised within the mainstream health system. 2. Māori believe that the hospital environment is not conducive to healing. 3. Māori experiences in hospital contribute to their decision to leave as soon as possible. The recommendations include the integration of more culturally acceptable and appropriate interventions within secondary and tertiary health services,
and a review of the effectiveness of cultural safety education in practice and inclusion/revision of the cultural competence for all health care workers.
Preface

Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Pirongia te maunga
Ko Kāwhia te moana
Ko Ōpārau te awa
Ko Te Matapihi te puna
Ko Rangihua tōku papakainga
Ko Waipapa tōku Marae
Ko Ngāti Puhiawe me Ngāti Horotakere ngōku Hapu
Ko Ngāti Hikairo tōku Iwi
Ko Pipi Barton ahau

Kāwhia Moana, Kāwhia Kai, Kāwhia Tangata.

Ko Kaiewe te whenua

**Nā Whaea Mere Gilmore**
(Ngāti Hineue, Ngāti Puhiawe, Te Whānau Pani, Ngāti Horotakere,
hapū nō Ngāti Hikairo)

E rere rā koe i runga tō maunga
Ko Pirongia tō maunga
Ngā nohotanga ā ō tupuna
Mihi atū kī ā rātou e

Rere mai rā koe i runga te whenua
Ko Kaiewe te whenua
Ngā haeretanga ā ō tūpuna
Tangi atu ki a rātou e

E huri tō kanohi ki te tāngaengae
Ko Pekanikau tāngaengae
Ngā okiokinga ā ō tūpuna
A nunui mā, a roroa mā
Whakamihia te puke tapu rā

Mihi atū rā ki te awa e rere rā
Ōpārau, kua kite rā ia i ngō tūpuna
Me ngā uri o Puhiawe, o Hineue

E rere rā koe tō mātou tūpuna wai
Puta atu rā koe
Kī te moana o Kāwhia
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Glossary of Terms

A
Aotearoa- Indigenous name of New Zealand
Aroha- Love
Awhi- Help

H
Hapū - Sub-tribe

I
Iwi- Tribe

K
Kaupapa- methodology; subject
Kākano- seed
Kanohi kitea- known face
Kawa- customs

M
Māramatanga- enlightenment
Mahi- work
Mana- prestige
Mātauranga- knowledge

P
Pākehā- New Zealander of European descent/origin
Paru- dirty

R
Rangatiratanga- sovereignty
Rito- centre

T
Te reo- Māori language
Tikanga- practice
Te Tiriti o Waitangi- Treaty of Waitangi (Founding document of New Zealand)

W
Whakapapa- genealogy
Whānau- family
Whanaungatanga- relationships and family connections
Whakawhiti kōrero- discussion