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**AN EXPLORATION OF THE EXPERIENCES OF
CULTURAL SAFETY
EDUCATORS**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of**

Master of Philosophy

Massey University

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2001

ABSTRACT

This thesis is a study of the experiences of four cultural safety lecturers in nursing education in Aotearoa / New Zealand. A review of literature reveals the recent and turbulent evolution of cultural safety. The media which documented this journey in a negative light in the 1990s prompted ministerial inquiries and the publication of the Nursing Council of New Zealand's Guidelines for cultural safety in nursing and midwifery education (1996). Action research methods enabled the participants to implement change in their practice and gain positive personal involvement in the study. Reflective diaries provided the major tool in this process as participants were able to achieve at least one action research cycle by identifying issues, planning action, observing the action and reflecting. The findings of the research revealed that the participants not only coped with every day stressors of teaching but they were also required to formulate knowledge of cultural safety. For the Maori participants their stress was confounded with recruiting and retaining Maori students and macro issues such as commitments to iwi. Lack of support to teach cultural safety was identified to be a key theme for all participants. An analysis of this theme revealed that it was organisational in nature and out of their immediate control. Action research provided a change strategy for participants to have a sense of control of issues within their practice. Recommendations have been made which focus on supporting cultural safety educators to dialogue on a regular basis through attendance at related hui; the introduction of nurse educator programmes; paid leave provisions for cultural safety educators to conduct and publish research so that a body of knowledge can be developed; and that Maori cultural safety educators be recognised for their professional and cultural strengths so that they do not fall victim to burn out.

HE MIHI

Te Timatanga

Tihei mauri ora

I sneeze, it is life!

Tihei uriuri, tihei nakonako

It is darkness, blackness

Ka tau ha whakatau ko te Rangi i runga nei

Lay, breath, set in this place, the sky above

Ka tau ha whakatau ko te Papa i raro nei

Lay, breath, set its place the earth below

Ka tau ha whakatau ko Te Matuku mai i Rarotonga

Trace back to Te Matuku from Rarotonga

Koia i rukuhia manawa pou roto

Who dived to the spirit within

Koia i rukuhia manawa pou waho

Who dived to the spirit without

Whakatina, kia tina Te More i Hawaiiiki

Fix firmly, Te More from Hawaiiiki

E pupu ana hoki, e wawau ana hoki,

Rising and falling

Tarewa tu ki te rangi

Rise and stand up to the sky

Aua kia eke, eke panuku, eke Tangaroa,

Rise, rise together, up Tangaroa

Whano, whano, haramai te toki,

Go, go bring me the adze

Haumi e, hui e ... taiki e!

Bind it join it ... It is done!

E te atua, te Matuakore, te Matua wananga tena koe.

Manaakitia tenei rourou

Manaakitia o matou whanau whanui

Tae noa ki te kaupapa o te karere nei

Arahina nga kupu korero

Arahina nga patai

Arahina nga ture nei

Kia puta ai te marama ki a tatou katoa

E nga mana, e nga reo, e nga karangarangatanga maha huri noa o te motu,
tena ra koutou, tena koutou, tena ra tatou katoa.

The development of this thesis would not have been possible without the assistance, support, and contribution of several people. I value greatly the input of the cultural safety educators that participated in this study, who shared their experiences with me.

I express my sincere thanks to my supervisors: Rachael Selby (School of Social Policy & Social Work) and Maureen Holdaway (School of Health Sciences), Massey University. Your commitment and guidance to me and to this study has been invaluable. To the Dean (Faculty of Health Studies) Eastern Institute of Technology, Susan Jacobs, I am grateful for the financial and inspirational support you have provided. To Jan Lawrence, my critical friend, for her many helpful comments in reviewing countless drafts, I thank you. To kuia, Pare Nia Nia and Makere Paul-Hoetawa Ka nui te mihi, ka nui te aroha. Finally, my greatest debt of gratitude and love is to my husband, Maurice Manuel-Belz, brother, Ronnie and sister in law Pania Ropiha for being patient and caring for the children when I needed to take time out to study.

No reira, te mihi atu, te mihi mai, tena koutou katoa

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