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***Achieving positive outcomes for children in care.* By R.J. (Sean) Cameron & Colin Maginn. London: Sage. 2009. Paperback, 161 pages.**

The book has a total of nine chapters and it is written based on a UK context. When I had read the first few pages about 'professionalising' childcare, I was initially skeptical and thought that the book was more about childcare than about children in care. But upon reading further, I have discovered that the book is comprehensively written with no technical jargon and it is simple, straightforward reading. It draws on social work, psychology and other social sciences. Several models and theories are covered and, on the whole, I have learnt some good points, which I will be able to apply into my practice.

The first chapter (Professional Care: When?) shares some sobering facts on children in care and states that most of the children who come into care in the UK (63%) are due to factors of abuse and neglect.

The 'Authentic Warmth' model is introduced and explained in great detail. It is incorporated with other social work theories and models for practical application.

The second chapter (The Power of Parenting) highlights parental rejection and its effects. The Parental Acceptance-Rejection Theory is discussed and examples of parental acceptance and rejection are given. The authors have hypothesised that children in care suffer first the trauma of parental rejection, followed by abuse and neglect.

Chapter Three (The Pillars of Parenting) covers the theoretical model of the 8 Pillars of Parenting, which is discussed in great detail. Other social needs theories are also linked into the 8 Pillars of Parenting theory.

The fourth chapter (Managing Challenging and Self-limiting Behaviour) highlights the issue of deviant behaviour and delinquency, with many contributing factors discussed. This chapter also covers the UK government's initiatives to recognise the need of strengthening the family as a social institution in order to tackle the serious social problem of deviant behaviours and delinquency.

The ABC model of behavior management is explained and recommended for managing low-response issues. An Aggressive and Violent Behaviour Inventory and the use of physical controls and restraints is talked about briefly.

Chapter 5 (Supporting Adaptive Emotional Development) speaks about understanding children's emotional pain resulting from rejection, neglect and abuse. Several models of grief are discussed: Wilson's River Of Life – Whirlpool of Grief theory, Bowlby's Four Stages of Grief model, Kubler-Ross' Five Stages of Grief theory and the Cairns model of Emotional

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Adaptation; and are all linked to the topic of care-giving for children in care (with strategies and suggested actions). There is a strong emphasis on empathy on the part of the caregiver. The chapter concludes with an excellent and in-depth discussion about post-trauma reaction trajectories and post-traumatic growth. Post-traumatic growth has been once again linked to topics mentioned in previous chapters.

The sixth chapter (The Educational Dimension) focuses on the educational dimension and states that there is a tremendous amount of power in the educational process, as it can either enhance or constraint the personal, social, academic and economic outcomes of all children; particularly those in public care. The readings in this chapter are pretty straightforward and it comes with a 'common sense' approach.

The main aim of the seventh chapter (Psychological Consultation and Support) is to describe how the consultant psychologist can help carers to develop a deeper insight into the factors underlying such emotional, social and behavioural difficulties of the children in their care and to consider appropriate and evidence-based approaches to the management of such problems so that they are better able to support children and young people. There is a very good illustration on how all previous models discussed are synergised and put into practice in the form of a sample case. The chapter concludes with 'Measurement and Evaluation' and there is an excellent graphic example of a cobweb record chart showing how the professionals can map out the improvement (or deterioration) of the child using the 8 Pillars of Parenting model over a period of time.

Chapter Eight (Theory Into Practice) focuses on putting theory into practice, and speaks about practical issues around implementing the 'Authentic Warmth' approach to professional childcare and the challenges involved in bringing about change within the children's homes.

The opening paragraph of the ninth chapter (Into The Future) mentions the authors' belief on why they feel that the Authentic Warmth model will work. An interesting point is highlighted where the authors challenge the reality that many children in care are moved from one placement to another. The authors challenge that in a society that appears to be so concerned about child abuse, is this also not another form of abuse and why is it so widely accepted?

The authors speak about the Lucifer Effect and there is a weblink given for the reader to explore. The chapter concludes with a list of recommendations for central and local government on how we can learn from our past mistakes and implement more child-friendly and effective policies and working systems for children in care.

In general, I have found the book very useful in refreshing and widening my knowledge in social work practice. Despite the fact that the book was written with a UK context, there are some parallels when compared with how social work is practiced here in New Zealand. I strongly recommend this book to readers, especially for those in the field of care and protection and youth justice. It is a must-read for new social workers, especially those who work in residential facilities.

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*Trust – A true story of women and gangs.* By Pip Desmond. Auckland: Random House. 2009. Paperback, 320 pages.

*Trust* is a remarkable book. My curiosity was raised firstly by the author. Pip Desmond and her family are names and people I have known since the 1970s, when our lives intersected via social justice groups. What I did not know was that Pip Desmond lived and worked amongst gang women as part of the Aroha Trust, a female work co-operative set up in 1977. The Aroha Trust was one of a series of work co-operatives set up around New Zealand to take advantage of the government's Temporary Employment Programmes. The TEP scheme, as it was known, was one of a number of responses that the government put in place to address soaring unemployment. Groups were able to work together and supervise themselves. Many gangs took advantage of these opportunities.

The book begins at Merv Hancock's son, Mike's unveiling. Here again, is another name to stir curiosity. What unfolds is a tapestry that weaves, over time, the stories of some of the young women involved in Aroha Trust and where they are now in adulthood. Along the way we meet some well known characters such as Denis O'Reilly, Robert Muldoon and Marilyn Waring, helping to situate the book in its historical context.

'Trust' is what Amelia, Annie, Bubbles, Charmaine, Junior, Georgie, Gini, Jane, Mahina, Nayda and Tasi affirm in Desmond, to share the harsh realities of their life stories before, during and after the Aroha Trust experience. *Trust* is a testament to the sisterhood that they share. The stories outlined give an 'insider' view of a world that mainstream society would prefer not to know. Abuse, the tragic death of loved ones, extended periods in Children's Homes' secure solitary confinement, drug use, rape, blocks and discrimination from the cops all became the platform for Aroha Trust to fight back. The women's stories are pepper-potted with recalled incidents from their lives together. The account of their trip to participate in the third United Women's Convention highlights the discrepancies between the aims of the feminist movement and the realities for these mostly Maori women.

Damien Wilkins, 2008 Katherine Mansfield Fellow, puts it well when she says of the book 'Totally absorbing- sometimes terrifying, frequently funny, always felt'. This fits with my own experience of the book. It is totally absorbing in the way it engages the emotion of the reader. At times I found the book disturbing, largely because of my identification with Desmond and the situations she got herself into. Desmond's crafting of the work is stunning and, given that this is her first book, one would hope she explores her literary talent further. It is no surprise that in 2010 she won the NZ Post Best First Book of Non-Fiction.

The book is remarkable for several reasons. Firstly, these women have agreed to share their stories. They do this in a way that is real, raw and scandalously funny at times. It exposes a client perspective and captures important aspects of New Zealand social history at the time. The writing is candid, conversational, courageous, compassionate and, most importantly, compelling.

This book will appeal to a wide range of social workers. For those who lived and worked during the late 1970s and were involved with work schemes and/or feminist struggles, the book provides another lens to consider those times and our roles in them. If you have an interest in gang women and their involvement with social workers, Children's Homes,

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youth justice and secure and solitary confinement, then the perspective shared in this book may be illuminating. For most of the women who share their stories in *Trust*, their journey to wholeness has involved a reconnection with whakapapa and Te Ao Maori. If none of the above holds particular appeal, do not be put off. *Trust*, as oral history and creative non-fiction is a very good read.

Helen Simmons,  
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***Welfare policy from below: Struggles against social exclusion in Europe.* Heinz Steinert & Arno Pilgram (eds). Aldershot UK, Ashgate Publishing. 2007. Paperback, 292 pages.**

Welfare, reform and social policy are hot topics in an election year. They are also the subject of frequent disputes over ideology and effectiveness. *Welfare policy from below* reports on a significant sociology/cultural anthropology research project undertaken within the European Union over three years and involving up to 20 researchers. The CASE project – Coping with and Avoiding Social Exclusion – emerged from a campaign against social exclusion initiated by the European Union (EU). This project employed an ethnographic methodology and discourse analysis of events of social exclusion experienced by individuals across eight European cities – Barcelona, Bologna, Vienna, Frankfurt/Main, Leipzig, Grøningen, Leeds and Stockholm. The events and ‘near events’ represent disruptions to social participation that could be minor, multiple, major, temporary, or ‘permanent’. The breadth and depth of the project enabled comparisons between countries, policy initiatives, and social and economic systems. The struggles against social exclusion, as the authors and editors propose, begin with toughest of social policy and welfare questions – what is a human being entitled to in our society?

There are three key concepts that stand out – participation as the opposite of exclusion; conceptualising work to mean more than waged labour and re-conceiving welfare as resource management. Each is presented as integral to the other, as seeing the future of ‘work’ as more than waged labour expands the diverse means available to individuals for participation and avoiding or coping with events of social exclusion. In turn, participation in this work is intimately likened to the social concept of meaningful activity. This includes activities that support waged labour and the functioning of the wider social structure. The authors propose a concept of ‘basic income’ to support social participation through meaningful activity in all its social manifestations. The project suggests that this will in turn support the desired flexibility and entrepreneurial shifts sought in the business and economic sectors in approaches to individual waged labour. The findings argue that in a globalised economy with a focus on an entrepreneurial, participatory workforce that it is even more important to have a welfare structure that provides a ‘basic income’ to support and enable the highly desirable flexibility in individuals’ labour power (58). These concepts are foundational to proposed principles for rebuilding European welfare-states in the current social, economic and political climate, a need that the authors recognise. While stopping short of making detailed policy recommendations, the project lays out principles for rebuilding sustainable social policy and infrastructure based on supporting active participation.

In the discussion of theory and concepts, the authors identify that;

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... the new 'globalised' economy has resulted in a tendency to see 'social exclusion' as a viable political option. Not only is it seen as inevitable, something that just 'happens' and that ... we cannot prevent, but is even a mechanism that can be actively used in politics.

Prominent examples studied include unemployment and 'foreigners' as targets for political manipulation as well as events of social exclusion that create significant hardship, while illustrating the dynamic nature of social exclusion through other events such as illness or disability. Several reports discuss means that individuals used to avoid or cope with social exclusion and how these are supported or assumed by governmental policy that proved to be exploitative of the individuals or the social structures, notably 'family', as a location of non-public resources in Italy. The study critiques the assumption that families are there to 'pick up the tab' when individuals experience hardship, calling this an abuse of the family.

Much of the discussion of social policy and welfare reforms in Aotearoa New Zealand followed policy initiatives from European countries. It is arguable also, that there are enough structural and discursive similarities between the mainstream culture and 'minority' cultures included, that this work has a high degree of relevance to the political and social context in this country. The analyses and findings in this study provide some timely critiques of the neo-liberal economic philosophy that drives much of the current discourses in economic, public and social policy here as well as globally. This collective monograph offers some important insights into the social complexities surrounding social exclusion, welfare policy, and both effective and ineffective social and policy responses that would be timely contributions to the social and policy dilemmas facing New Zealand.

While there is a temptation with some collections to read only chapters most relevant to one's current question or research, there is significant value in reading the introductory and conclusion chapters to grasp the scope and achievements of this project. It is judicious in its inclusion of statistical information and provides much valuable discussion and commentary from the project. There are many useful insights in the latter sections of the work, including discussions of the 'welfare/work/family' mix, the 'presence and absence' of community and the limits of individual coping discussed in terms of 'the market' and 'the law'. The authors' present concept and theory chapters and discussions of findings chapters that stand alone as well as forming a cohesive whole, so there is good choice available for targeted reading as well as 'cover to cover.'

Insights from studies such as these are important for social work, whether that be working with individuals, community development, advocacy, or speaking out as a profession for social justice. The concise analysis of neo-liberal capitalist economic philosophy, its disadvantages for social policy and careful examination of effective measures to redress social exclusion makes this a significant contribution to the ongoing discussion of globalisation, social policy and social work. *Welfare Policy from Below* presents an important reminder of reasons for social workers to remain conversant with social policy to sustain critical commentary on policies that work to the detriment of individuals, families and communities with whom we work. This work succeeds admirably in rewriting welfare policy 'from below' through examining the lives of people affected by social exclusion and hardship.

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***Key concepts in health studies.* By Chris Yuill, Iain Crinson & Eilidh Duncan. SAGE Publications (First Edition). 2010. Paperback, 178 pages.**

The book is one of a series of *Key Concepts* texts published by Sage. Divided into 6 parts, it is based on a UK context. It covers the following areas in detail: defining health, the human life course, health protection, health beliefs and health behavior, the lived experience of health and illness, and the health care profession.

The book begins with the *various concepts and models* (namely, the biomedical, social and alternative models) used to *define health*. The reader gains an insight by seeing that the notions of health are socially constructed and the 'true' reality depends on the model that one subscribes to. The fundamental differences in outlooks and tensions between the biomedical and social models of health are discussed. Sociological concepts like discourses, power and control, positivism, culture, structure and agency, social class, gender and medicalisation are highlighted. The strengths and limits of each model are also emphasised.

It goes on to speak about the *human life course* (the sociology of child birth, childhood, family, aging and dying) and outlines a range of concepts, which relate to the 'transitions' and 'trajectories' that occur in everyone's lives. Evident here is how what may seem like an intrinsically biological process, that of growing from infancy to adulthood and on to old age before dying, is in practice bound up with a variety of social, cultural and psychological processes. From infancy on, through childhood and beyond, society and culture are always present, creating and conditioning everyday experiences, identity and health outcomes. Life course models use longitudinal individual-level data that conceive life and health chances as being constituted as much by social context as biological development. It is able to draw attention to the importance of role change over time (trajectories and transitions) in order to link early life social and health experiences to those of later life for individuals.

Chapter 3 canvases *health protection* (a term used to describe national and international strategies to reduce threats to the health of populations). It explores, in greater detail, the issues of health inequalities, global health risks and the strategies deployed to counter these outcomes, such as public health interventions & health promotion initiatives. It is argued that the quality of health one experiences is determined not so much by lifestyle choices (i.e., smoking and eating fatty foods) but on where one is located by gender, ethnicity, social class and country of residence. This view is in line with the social model of health that stresses that health is much more than understanding the normal or abnormal functioning of biological systems. Concepts like social capital and globalisation are integrated into the discussion, and related sub-topics – risk society, public health, health promotion, work & health and global health – are included. Worldwide examples of health issues, government policies and related controversies are incorporated in this chapter.

*Health beliefs and health behavior* are discussed in chapter 4 and the concepts explored here explain and contextualise the ways in which ordinary people perceive, understand and engage in health seeking. People actively interpret and filter messages and understandings of health through social, personal and cultural traditions and experiences. This observation informs us about the subtleties of health and the rich variety of meanings attached to health in wider society. As human beings, we remain bounded by physical bodies that shape our self-identity and self-conceptions (and vice versa). The interconnectivity between biologi-

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cal, social and psychological is explored in this chapter with the help of models (Health Belief Model, Theory of Planned Behaviour, Stages of Change Model and the Multi-Causal Pathways Model). The chapter concludes with a write-up on stress, its impact on health, coping strategies and stress management plus the technique of motivational interviewing in a healthcare setting.

The book continues with the aspect of the *lived experience of health & illness*. Research has identified that the functional medical aspects of being ill, attending a clinic or taking medication, are just one element of the experience of health and illness. How one maintains a sense of self and how one copes with the emotional tasks associated with pain and suffering can be just as important as medical concerns. The concepts of stigmatisation, deviancy, labeling and symbolic meanings in the context of illness are covered here.

The book closes with a chapter on the variety of forms of *health care provision*. People perceive the healthcare system as the key tangible representation of health management within a society reflected in the support the public gives to these services and the continuing financial commitment of government. However, healthcare systems have little to do with health, as their function is to manage illness. These systems are explored from the perspective of those who work within them, from the service users' perspective and from the perspective of those who have until recently been ignored, marginalised, excluded from or damaged by the healthcare system. Challenges to existing mechanisms of healthcare are also discussed through the concepts of governance and consumerism. Sub-topics like the regulation, provision and funding aspect of healthcare systems are also considered alongside basic economic and policy-making concepts.

The book is holistic in its approach, easy to read and understand. Concepts in health studies are considered from an historical and sociological perspective, thus providing a critical view. For those who are interested to read more, there are plenty of references cited at the end of each chapter. A wide range of topics are covered and even though based in a UK context, NZ readers can compare our healthcare system and its policies for a synergistic understanding.

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