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WOMEN'S IMPACT ON NZ SOCIETY HEALTH: PART
TWO

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CHANGING PATTERNS

CRADLE TO GRAVE

One Hundred Crowded years (extract)

Government Film Studios 1940. Duration 2:24

One Hundred Crowded Years sums up New Zealand's 'cradle to the grave' approach to social security and health, celebrates free health care and retirement income. The commentary eulogizes Sir Truby King for New Zealand achieving the lowest infant mortality rate in the world, while the work of thousands of lowly paid women remains unrecognised.

THE STATE & PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP

Health Camps for Happiness (extract)

Government Film Studios 1937. Duration 2:54

An appeal by Michael Joseph Savage for the King George V Memorial Fund for Health Camps. Shows children at a health camp. An example of early ventures like Plunket and Karitane that relied on public donations in their formative stages and gradually received more of their funding provision from the Government. The first Labour Government agreed to provide operating funds. The Department of Education continued to maintain the schools on each property and supply teaching staff. At this point, the Department of Health provided a secretariat for the Federation which under a revised Act had become a "quango" of the Department with a duly appointed National board. And health stamps – a 'healthy' money earner still.

PULLING BACK THE STATE

Close Up. Hunterville Hospital (extract)

TVNZ 1984. Duration 6:32

Money and the Public Finance Act. The Rogernomics revolution means that regional services become lower considerations than the overall numerical delivery, and of course state expenditure period. In 1984 the heavy hand was being waved by the Wanganui Hospital Board, but the terminology was to go through several name changes in succeeding years. Services were steadily centralized and the process continues today.

DEVOLVING INSTITUTIONS

One News 12/02/2006 (extract)

TVNZ 2006. Duration 2:10

The new modes of provision introduced from the 80s on don't always match up with public concerns. Residents of the affluent Wellington suburb of Whitby are outraged that seriously ill mental health patients have been housed in a community acute house in their neighbourhood. Sharon McGillivray (Whitby Resident); Judi Clements (Mental Health Foundation).

DIFFERENT CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Waiora - Te Ukaipo (extract)

Waiora and Department of Health 1986. Duration 2:08

Maori health suffered badly after British colonisation, experiencing new health problems brought by dislocation and exposure to foreign diseases. Throughout the 19th century it was predicted Maori would die out. In 1900 Maori women had a life expectancy of 30, Pakeha 60. In this film from 1986, an elder Maori woman speaks of having 13 children. After the first eight she gave birth to the rest of her children in hospital. Her family was subsequently in poor health, which she blames on exposure to the Pakeha health system. John Rangihau speaks of retaining traditional Maori approaches to health, caring and community well being.

WOMEN & PUBLIC HEALTH

THE TWENTIES

The Years Back: The Twenties (extract)

National Film Unit 1973. Duration 2:55

According to the social norms of the 20's, it was not 'proper' for women to work if they had no financial need. Ideally, a woman should be supported by her husband or family, and not threaten the traditional roles of men as breadwinners and women as child rearing machines/caregivers. Nursing however, was a viable option for women who wanted a career (even daughters of the middle class), probably because it reinforced society's expectations of women as caregivers and mothers. In keeping with this role, women nurses were poorly paid and worked long hours.

PICTORIAL PARADE 245

Pictorial Parade 245: There is a way (extract)

National Film Unit 1971. Duration 1:28

In 1921 the government instituted the Dental Nurses Scheme. Designed to halt an epidemic of tooth decay, the treatment was free, and the first students began practising in 1923.

There was still great opposition to women 'working' in health at this time. However, it was also seen appropriate for women to work with children, and since the work was low-paid, it would hold little appeal for men.

The first female doctor graduated from Otago University in 1896, but female doctors were largely the subject of derision from other doctors and students, with stories of women being jeered and bullied by male student doctors. An article in *The Triad* in 1907 on the subject 'Why Women Doctors are Unpopular' printed a long list of characteristics summing up why women were unfit to be doctors emphasizing that a woman was unstable, being 'at the mercy of her nerves'. The first Maori woman doctor began work in 1948.

DENTAL NURSES

Weekly Review 218 (extract)

National Film Unit 1945. Duration 2:47

National Health: dental clinic service extended: At the Wellington Dental Clinic and Dental Training School on Willis Street, student nurses treat children under the watchful eye of trained supervisors. Not only are the girls trained as dental nurses, but their physical wellbeing is also seen to; fitness classes take place on the roof of the building. Clinics are also being established in schools, like the one at Miramar Central School.

EAST COAST DISTRICT NURSE 1948

Weekly Review 246 (extract)

National Film Unit 1948. Duration 4:37

One hundred miles north of Gisborne in Te Araroa, the district nurse visits the local people, of whom 90 % are Maori. She must cross rivers and hostile countryside, often completing her journey on horseback. She endeavours to isolate tuberculosis by keeping patients in detached bedrooms. At the local school, she gives the children baths and organises nutritious packed lunches. She teaches young women mother craft and gives prenatal classes in her own

home. "Everyone respects the district nurse. She is a lone figure – but too busy to be lonely."

MODERN GIRLS

Weekly Review 246 (extract)

National Film Unit 1948. Duration 3:11

HEALTH – HOSPITALS MEET STAFF PROBLEMS: Shows the improved conditions and equipment at the newly opened Hutt Hospital. Aimed at recruiting "modern girls", the women are given free overalls. The commentary stresses the removal the dirty word 'domestic' from the staffing designation.

CITY DISTRICT HEALTH NURSE

City District Health Nurse (extracts)

National Film Unit 1950. Duration 14:07

The District Health nurse works mainly with children and families. She is a registered nurse, maternity trained and often has a Plunket Certificate. When babies are born in the district she notifies parents about the immunisation programme and ensures that regular checks for pre-school and school age children are performed. School lessons such as mothercraft, first aid, health checks for children and caring for the elderly are all in a days work, for the District Health Nurse.

NURSES - CARING & COPING

Nurses - Caring and Coping (extracts)

Top Shelf Productions 1996. Duration 5:26

Health reforms since 1985 have led to essential healthcare services being evaluated on the basis of finance rather than patient welfare. The imperative to reduce health spending has created for many health professionals a climate of despair as they are forced to cut corners or eradicate patient services.

In the streamlined health system of today the concept of the district or community nurse still remains, with studies indicating that the presence of a community nurse reduces infant mortality(?). This is a demanding role however, and the role of the nurse being on-call and available creates stress and pressure. These excerpts profile a community nurse and the closure of Ward 18 at Hutt hospital.

NURSES - HOPE & HEARTBREAK

Nurses - Hope and Heartbreak (extracts)

Top Shelf Productions 1995. Duration

This film sums up the difficulties and rewards of nursing; the long days, the emotional pressures of caring for patients who are vulnerable, ill and dying, and the responsibility that nurses have for their patients care. While nurses are as responsible for patients lives as doctors, pay rates remain relatively low compared to other professions dealing with public welfare.

WOMEN IN FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

SUZANNE AUBERT

New Zealand s Top 100 History Makers (extract)

Visionary Film & Television 2005. Duration 2:18

Suzanne Aubert sailed to New Zealand in 1860 with Bishop Jean Baptiste François Pompallier and with the exception of a period spent in Rome between 1913 and 1919, Suzanne Aubert remained in New Zealand until the end of her life. After time spent in Auckland between 1860 and 1869, teaching young Maori girls, she worked among Maori, first at Meeanee in Hawke's Bay, and from 1883 at Hiruharama (Jerusalem) on the Wanganui River. While at Jerusalem she began caring for unwanted Pakeha children, an activity which led her into a third stage of endeavour: social work among the urban poor. She achieved most in the period between 1899, when she moved to Wellington, and 1913, when she travelled to Rome to gain pontifical approval of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion which she had founded. Her activities at this time laid the basis of work still undertaken by the order. She died in 1926 aged 91.

PRINCESS TE PUEA

Te Puhi Kai Ariki: A Salute to the Maori Women s Welfare League (extract)

Pacific Rose Productions / Front of the Box 2004. Duration 1:06

Princess Te Puea was the Maori Womens Welfare League's first patroness. She strove for improved conditions for Maori with practical initiatives in housing, land, health, and employment.

ETTIE ROUT

New Zealand's Top 100 History Makers (extract)

Visionary Film & Television 2005. Duration 2:02

In 1915 Ettie Rout established the New Zealand Volunteer Sisterhood to go overseas and work among the troops. Shocked by the appalling incidence and impact of venereal disease, she learned all she could about prophylactic methods and set out to promote "safe sex" to both the military authorities and the troops themselves. Although her concern for the well-being of soldiers extended to other rest and recreation services (a safe brothel for kiwi soldiers), it is for her courageous and outspoken efforts to achieve sexual health that she is most widely remembered. Her prophylactic kit was adopted by the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in 1917, but all mention of her was banned from New Zealand's press. Her popular books were banned in New Zealand but published in Australia and Britain. After the war she remained in London, continuing to promote sexual and physical health, and was acknowledged by her own country only many years after her death.

SISTERS OF COMPASSION

Whom My Heart Has Chosen (extracts)

Pacific films / Seven films 1967. Duration 2:34

Established in 1892, the order of the Sisters of Compassion still serves the communities of the South Pacific. The work of the Sisters includes running Homes of Compassion for the sick, elderly, socially and physically disadvantaged. They established New Zealand's first day care nursery for working mothers in 1903. The extraordinary role this private organisation has played in public health is summed up by their motto "to give delicate loving care of the lonely half of the poor, to bring to the service of those who suffer the heart of a mother sister and guardian angel".

RED CROSS

Pictorial Parade 142: One Hundred Years (extract)

National Film Unit 1963. Duration 7:49

Founded 100 years ago, the Red Cross played a vital role during World War Two on both side of the lines. In New Zealand, the Junior Red Cross has 23,000 members. The organisation is the largest youth movement in the world, with membership of 58 million. The boy cadets learn first aid, camping, fire fighting, life saving and search and rescue skills. The girls learn nursing, baby care, first aid and help send parcels to children in need around the world.

The activities of the senior branch include a nation-wide meals on wheels service, a library service for hospital patients, a companionship scheme and craft clubs for the elderly and disabled, and food and clothing parcels for refugees overseas. A split between the genders is apparent in the Junior Red Cross.

THE MAORI WOMEN'S WELFARE LEAGUE

The Nineties (extracts)

Top Shelf 1993. Duration 2:32

The Maori Women's Welfare League was established in 1951. Originally a government initiative, it became a voice for women who, forbidden to speak on the marae, were now able to act on their concerns about housing, family, women and children. The leagues activities included everything from providing bedding to building projects. They also campaigned on environmental issues, drug use, racism and were involved with many other women's welfare groups. Key figures include Dame Whina Cooper, who as unpaid president in the 1950's travelled extensively round New Zealand, and Princess Te Puea who was it's first patron. In 1992 the league co-founded the first national Maori Health Authority Te Waka Hauora. These interviews show the huge informal (and often unrecognised) contribution generations of women have made to health and welfare in this country.