

A PERSONAL JOURNEY TO UNDERSTANDING PARTNERSHIP FROM A NURSING PERSPECTIVE

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I have come to believe that:

- ✚ Nursing is translated into reality in the practice of a qualified nurse person – that’s where nursing exists – in an encounter between nurse and a person
- ✚ Nursing cannot be expressed or practised as if it is a defined and distinctive list of tasks
- ✚ The whole nursing enterprise exists to bring a qualified nurse into contact with a person in need of nursing so the nurse can deliver thoughtful, skilful, timely nursing within a warm, purposeful relationship
- ✚ Nurses bring their personal model for practice as well as their accumulated life wisdom to each nursing situation
- ✚ Nursing has two primary time orientations – in the dynamic present moment, and accumulating encounters over time
- ✚ Nursing shapes and is profoundly shaped by the totality of the nurse’s life experience – attributes, understandings, relationships, happenings, beliefs and values
- ✚ Nursing practice requires the intentional and ongoing surveillance of the patients’ circumstances, and informed, ongoing interpretation and re-interpretation of the situation within a nursing framework
- ✚ Each person experiences their life as a whole, so there is a constant interplay between their presenting health related experience and the totality of their life experience and wisdom
- ✚ Nursing occurs concurrently with the ongoing life experiences of all concerned
- ✚ Each nurse needs to intentionally seek to understand what is happening or could happen to any person who does/will or might need nursing, including the nature of their lived health experience and life circumstances
- ✚ Every registered nurse practises within a specialty area from the time of registration, and is expected to embed an understanding of the circumstances of the population they are nursing within their personal framework for nursing practice
- ✚ The nursing dimensions of a health experience are the primary concern and area of expertise of the nurse
- ✚ Very registered nurse needs to enter a nursing encounter ready to act – to be open to the possibilities in each encounter and to constantly practice situational decision making
- ✚ Nurse and patient bring different perspectives to the nurse-patient encounter
- ✚ The knowledge available to nurses and patients for care decisions are not the same
- ✚ Patients make decisions on the information they have available to them, and they will not always make “good” decisions
- ✚ The way in which a nurse-patient partnership happens – step by step, decision by decision, action by action, word by word, encounter by encounter – is just as important as the actual outcome
- ✚ Nursing is an asymmetrical relationship where the focus of both nurse and patient is on optimising the patient’s experience of a health related experience
- ✚ Within the nursing partnership both nurse and patient are active; both have work to do; and the expertise of both is essential to the outcome