Training the native nurses: so what went wrong? – An Australian context

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UK Association for the History of Nursing Colloquium
Oxford University 4th July 2013
Indigenous Australian tribal boundaries
Australian nursing history

- Regulated nursing and midwifery in Australia is just over 120 years old
- Skilled western trained nurses arrived in 1838
- 6 Florence Nightingale nurses arrived in 1868
- Systems of training commenced shortly after this
- The Australasian Trained Nurses Association (ATNA) was formed in 1899
The administration of Indigenous Australians

Queensland Aboriginal peoples have lived under numerous government policies since invasion in 1788.

Official and unofficial policies can be divided into six phases:

1. British invasion and settlement 1770–1824
2. Occupation and extermination 1824–1908
3. Protection and segregation 1873–1957
5. Self-determination 1980
Protection and segregation

In 1897, the Aboriginal and Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act was passed, authorising the removal of Aboriginal people to reserves.

Many Indigenous Australians refer to this time as being under the ACT.
Aboriginal Chief Protector

Aboriginal people lost British legal status and became wards of the state.
Superintendent's House

Half-Castes’ Dormitory
Full-bloods’ Camp
Tindale
Rushcliffe: report of the committee on the training of nurses for the Colonies

1. The training of nurses in the United Kingdom and the Dominions for services in the Colonial territories, and

2. The training given in the colonies to the Indigenous nurses.
Nursing in 1940’s advertisement
Aboriginal nurse aides
Indigenous nurses and midwives

Muriel Stanley
1940s

Mawn Young
1950s

Ellie Gaffney
1950s

Lowitja O'Donoghue
1950s

Allison Bush
1950s

May Yarrowick
1906
Findings and Conclusion

1. Darwinism

2. Australian Dominionship

3. Acts of Parliament

4. Lack of Aboriginal critical mass
References

Queensland State Archives

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Theses

Articles
Woorabinda 1927-1977 Golden Year Jubilee
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Elkin, A. P (1929) *The practical Value of Anthropology*, Morpeth Review 9

Reports
Meston, A (1889) *Report of the government scientific Expedition to the Bellenden-Ker Range*, Brisbane Government Printer
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