



Transforming IVSC health care in Aotearoa

MANI B MITCHELL

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Born **1953**

Identified '**hermaphrodite**'
named **Bruce**

Impacted by the **traumatic**
John Money – 'model of
Care'.

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Initial training was as a
Teacher/Educator
Did much of my teaching
In remote rural schools.

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I moved into Local Government
as an **educator/trainer**
Was identified as some one
with 'potential' and was given
access to tertiary level
Media and Management training

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Turn 40 - 'trauma **storm** unravels' in my life - Leave work - do 2 year's intense personal therapy. Own my '**intersex**' status/story – build a tool box to hold, be with, manage my own trauma.

Retrain as a **mental health** professional
-1996 – start **ITANZ** (Intersex Trust Aotearoa NZ)

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I cant change the past – I can learn from it – I can be part of changing the future..

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- We started as **systems change** organisation
- Working with Parents, Community, **multiple** Stakeholder Organisations, Government, including NZ Human Rights Commission.
- My first trust board member was a **doctor**.
- I always knew that to create change it would need to be **collaborative – intersectional**.
- Focused on the **future**, forward looking.
- Focused on the **health and well being** of intersex persons and their whanau/family.

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Dr Jeanie Douche – Department Head, Midwifery Massey University – Designed and ran a program for training midwives – how to respond **positively** to the birth of a child with innate variations of sex characteristics (intersex) 25 years ago!! Would now include the expanded role of parent **support**

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Dr Gill Greer, **Sexual Health E.D.**

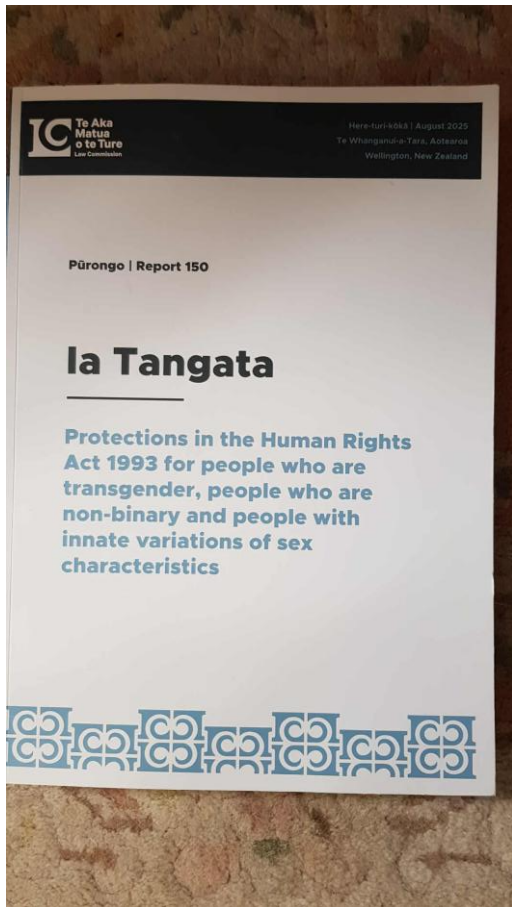
Awareness and support for ALL very early on we included education and awareness in training programs. I have come to the realisation of the specific (**trauma informed**) and complex sexual health needs of IVSC teens. (Work in progress)

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- **Partnerships** – multiple, cumulative
- Working with **respect, dignity, mana enhancing**
- All of life – focus on **optimal health**
- **Empowering** parents/whanau, to be their child's advocate – voice, cheer leader.
- **Bodily autonomy** – patient rights
- Anchored in **Te Ao Māori Principles**
- **Preserving choice, trauma informed.**
- Acknowledging **culture, spirituality and diversity.**

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- **Otago Medical school** last decade part time tutor 4th and 5th year medical students.
- Research assistant **Victoria University** – older IVSC persons.
- A member of the advisory group, for **NZ Law Commission: Ia Tangata** report on human rights protections for IVSC persons.
- Teaching N.Z. **physiotherapy** programs.