



We The People  
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Good day to you. Today an example of political correctness gone mad but lifting the Australian performance to Gold Standard PC which is a much coveted award sort after by bureaucracies and academics. Forgive my cynicism but both categories often belong to those who neither sew nor reap. It costs the Australian tax payer over 16% of national revenue or \$70 billion a year to run the super department of Gold Standard PC and hangers on for administrative duties. Now part of this huge bank account goes to the dreaded Qango which generates all kinds of useless or intrusive legislation, directives, and regulations. All are designed to protect the bureaucracy and to feed the fat cats and those who toil but produce nothing. A Qango is an acronym for a **quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation** being an arm's length body funded by the government but not run by them. They are usually a left over mechanism from some previous bureaucratic ritual which once may have had meaning but no longer and so it takes on a life of its own reinventing and re-engineering itself. From what I have just witnessed we have a super nova example at hand and the relevant Federal Minister knew nothing of it.

So allow me to introduce the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia the NMBA. This group oversee the standards and conduct for nurses and midwives and to protect the public. A midwife is a person trained to assist in child birth and postpartum matters. Now the Board have decided to update their requirements and guide lines. The new regulations come into effect this year and as you would expect they are voluminous. It always seems that Qangos justify their existence by producing lots and lots of pages of directives and this group is no exception. What has infuriated me came from a tip from Corrie Bernardi who I respect and admire. When you read through the new material a lot of it seeks to do a proper job of defining the level of care and the professional conduct of the nurses and midwives it claims to represent. However later on as you progress through this weighty tome there is a near imperceptible line crossed where the narrative leaves the world of guidelines and becomes a dossier on how people should think and in that it appears to intrude on their personal lives. Lots of PC words like diversity, cultural awareness and of course inequality, racism, harassment, bullying and discrimination. My favourite is the phrase the "inherent power imbalance", I just don't know what it means. They demand respect for diverse cultures, beliefs, gender identities and sexualities and on and on it goes as though the nurse or midwife is an idiot. In fact their politically correct and massive wish list may well deter people from joining the ranks because of the inevitable bureaucratic check list. The thrust of this dystopian volume serves to hand ball all responsibility to the good woman and the few men actually doing the job and I suspect it's so intensive and onerous that they will not have time for the actual child birth.

Now the 'bridge to far' in all this is best summed up by this remarkable piece of Qango writing and I quote..... "*In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, cultural safety provides a **de-colonising model** of practice based on dialogue, communication, power sharing and negotiation, and the **acknowledgment of white privilege**".* What on earth is a 'decolonising model' and in any case I don't like it as it sounds like some kind of instruction to generate guilt and loathing and to place on the nurse or midwife a proclamation of shame. Then a little further on the reference to acknowledging **white privilege** is nothing short of racism sanctioned by the federal minister for health. It appears to be that the Caucasian nurse or midwife must declare their 'white advantage' which is patently stupid, insulting and wrong. This is not the Australian way and I am ashamed to live in a country where the federal government allows this kind of arbitrary nonsense. I've contacted Karen Andrews the federal member for McPherson and expressed my concern and to her credit she contacted the Minister for Health Greg Hunt for an explanation. I know Karen Andrews is now concerned about this matter and I will update listeners on what her enquiry produces and what the federal government intend to do about this outrage. In closing, I mention the words from the opening of the Qangos document and I quote.... "*Australia has always been a culturally and linguistically diverse nation*" ..... now there is a dramatic and misleading overreach that seeks to rewrite history for the benefit of the politically correct.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**