


# **BERYL, her CATS and MAGPIES**



Dorothy Patrick

O.P.A. Risks & Rights Forum 2005




# PURPOSE OF SOCIAL WORK

## COMMITMENT AND AIMS

The social work profession is committed to the pursuit and maintenance of human well-being. Social work aims to maximise the development of human potential and the fulfilment of human needs, through an equal commitment to:

- Working with and enabling people to achieve the best possible levels of personal and social well-being
- Working to achieve social justice through social development and social change



In the determination and pursuit of its aims, **social work is committed to five basic values:**

- **HUMAN DIGNITY AND WORTH**
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- **SERVICE TO HUMANITY**
- **INTEGRITY**
- **COMPETENCE**



# Small Group Discussions

1. What risks did you identify in the case study?
2. Does your agency provide a policy or framework on how you should both assess and respond to risk?
  - a) Is this based upon the imminent/emergent risk or all potential risks?
3. Are there competing risks in the situation and which ones should the agency act upon?
4. Are there key principles which guide your own assessment and response to risks? If so, what are these?
5. What options do you think the agency has in responding to these risks?



## **REFERRAL: from OPA**

Public Advocate was in advocacy role - no guardian

Administrator - recent appointment

Short Term private Case Management and Intervention, pending eligibility for CACP package

Lady living alone

Few supports

History of past alcohol abuse

History of schizophrenia

No recent medical contact

Anti medication

Complaints from council regarding cats



# ASSESSMENT

- Pre arranged with ACAS Officer
- Met Beryl at gate on her way to the shops
- Chatted, allowed us in
- Open with certain information (e.g. money!) - guarded regarding any cognitive, activities of daily living questioning



# State of House

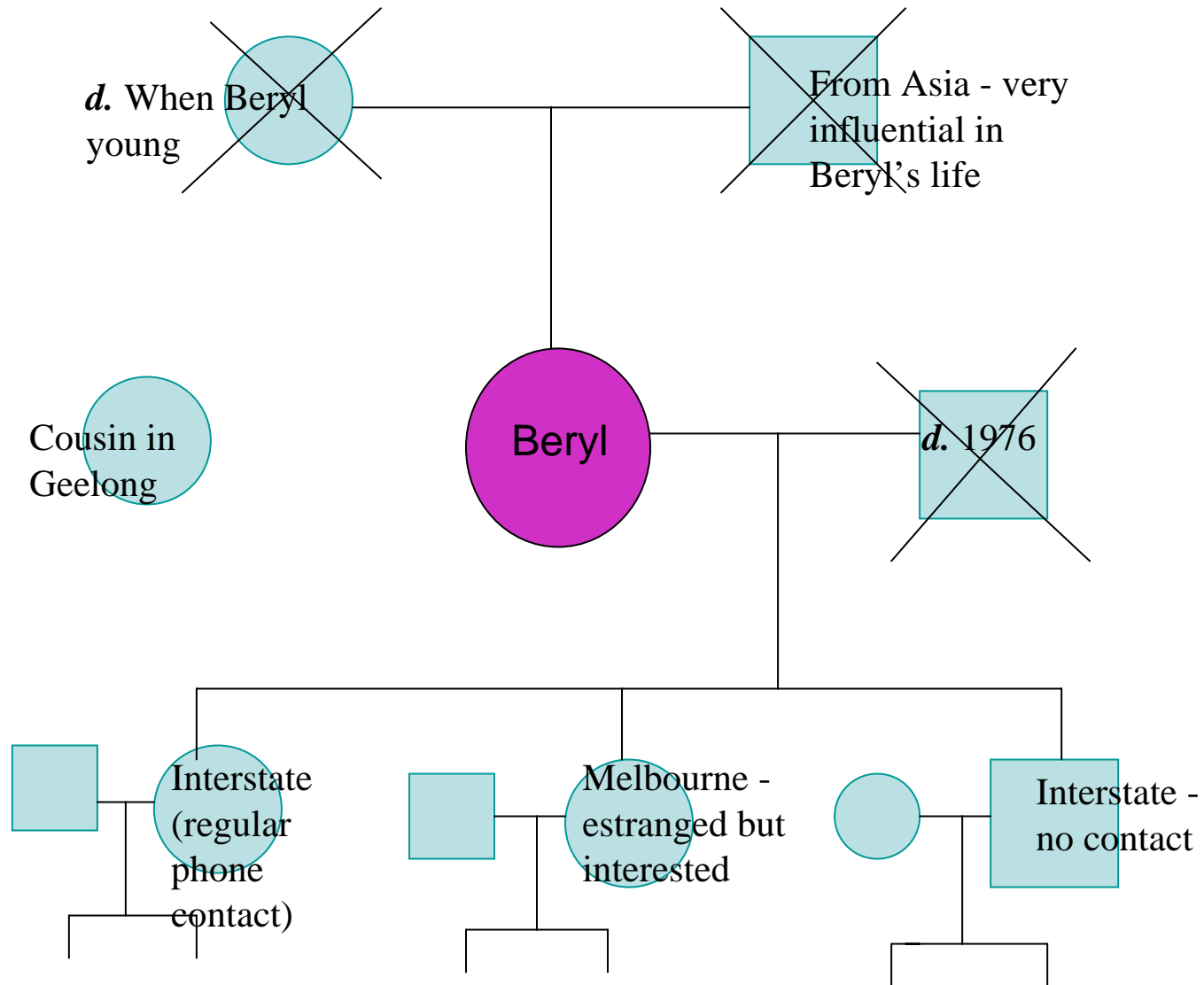
## Inside

“There was evidence of the presence of cats in every room. Cat food was on plates throughout the house, and the back sunroom housed 30 loaves of bread delivered to feed the magpies in the back yard for the next week, 15kg bags of parrot food, dry dog and cat food, and \$25 of fresh cat food from the butcher and unrefrigerated in bags on the floor. Litter trays were in the laundry and appeared relatively clean. It was difficult to ascertain exactly how many cats lived in the house but is probably three and a kitten. Mrs Jones reports she buried another kitten to reduce her cat numbers. The 20-year old cat lying in the lounge room had a skin lesion believed to have resulted from a cat fight.”

## Outside

Magpies and dishes + + + +

# GENOGRAM



Neighbours  
on one side

Business  
across road

Veterans'  
Affairs

Market  
Storeholders

Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

**Beryl**

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

Council

Police



Neighbours  
on one side

**O.P.A.**

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

Business  
across road

Council

Veterans'  
Affairs

**Beryl**

Police

Market  
Storeholders



Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

Neighbours  
on one side

**O.P.A**

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

Business  
across road

**VCAT**

Council

Veterans'  
Affairs

**Beryl**

Police

Market  
Storeholders

Local Children

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Family



Neighbours  
on one side

O.P.A

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

Business  
across road

VCAT

Council

Veterans'  
Affairs

Administrator 1

Beryl

Police

Market  
Storeholders

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Neighbours  
on one side

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Mowing Man

Neighbours  
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Council

Veterans'  
Affairs

**Administrator 1**

**Beryl**

Police

Market  
Storeholders

**ACAS**



Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

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Mowing Man

Neighbours  
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Business  
across road

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**Beryl**

Police

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Affairs

**Administrator 1**

**ACAS**

Market  
Storeholders

**Case Manager 1**



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Veterans'  
Affairs

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**Beryl**

Police

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Market  
Storeholders

**Case Manager 1**


**Vet**

Local Children

Hairdresser

Family





24 November 2004

Dear Beryl,

Just a note to help you remember what you have decided to do with your cats.

- Bootsie died last month and you buried him.
- Muffy and the young kitten have been speyed – no more kittens!!
- You have had two of Muffy's six month old cats speyed and given them to the R.S.P.C.A. who will give them to good homes.
- Today I am taking the last of the six month old cats to be speyed and she will be returned to you later this week.

You have said that you have found that three cats are easier, and cheaper, for you to manage.

I think you've made a good decision.

Kind regards,

Dorothy Patrick

Social Worker

P.S. Doctor's appointment with a new lady doctor on 30 November at 9.00am. It is a new doctor – I will go with you. I will pick you up at 8.40am.



## Message 1

Dorothy Patrick, this Beryl Jones.

You made an appointment to see me on a certain date but I can't do it because I've got an appointment with someone else. And so I'll have to cancel it, all right? I'm sorry to do that (cause) you've been so helpful.

Beryl Jones here. Thank you.



## Message 2

Dorothy, Beryl Jones speaking.

I just realised and had a look that you had an appointment (for/booked) the 3<sup>rd</sup> on next week this week coming or next week or something and I can't make it cause I've already got an appointment. And I don't want you to put yourself out to do too many things out for me. I feel guilty and it's upsetting me.

So darling please leave me alone. Thank you. Beryl Jones.

Please don't turn up Thursday. I honestly have another appointment, Wednesday rather. I'm that upset I can't think.

Don't turn up for the appointment on Wednesday. I think it's next week.

Neighbours  
on one side

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

**O.P.A**

Business  
across road

Council

**VCAT**

**Beryl**

Police

Veterans'  
Affairs

**Administrator 1**

**ACAS**

**G.P.**

Market  
Storeholders

**Case Manager 1**

**Vet**



Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

Neighbours  
on one side

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

**O.P.A**

Business  
across road

Council

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Veterans'  
Affairs

**Administrator 1**

**Beryl**

Police

**Hospital**

**ACAS**

Market  
Storeholders

**G.P.**

**Case Manager 1**

**Vet**



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Hairdresser

Family

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on one side

Mowing Man

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**O.P.A**

Business  
across road

Council

**VCAT**

**Cleaners**

Veterans'  
Affairs

**Administrator 1**

**Beryl**

Police

**Hospital**

**ACAS**

**G.P.**

Market  
Storeholders

**Case Manager 1**

**Vet**



Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

Neighbours  
on one side

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

O.P.A

Business  
across road

R.D.N.S.

Council

VCAT

Cleaners

Veterans'  
Affairs

Administrator 1

**Beryl**

Police

Hospital

ACAS

Market  
Storeholders

G.P.

Case Manager 1

Vet



Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

Neighbours  
on one side

**O.P.A**

**Chemist**

Mowing Man

Neighbours  
up the street

Business  
across road

**VCAT**

**R.D.N.S.**

**Council**

Veterans'  
Affairs

**Administrator 1**

**Cleaners**

**Police**

**Beryl**

**Hospital**

Market  
Storeholders

**ACAS**

**G.P.**

**Case Manager 1**

**Vet**



Local Children

Hairdresser

Family

Neighbours  
on one side

Business  
across road

Veterans'  
Affairs

Market  
Storeholders

Local Children

O.P.A

VCAT

Administrator 1

ACAS

Case Manager 1

Case Manager 2

Hairdresser

**Beryl**

Vet

Family

Chemist

Mowing Man

R.D.N.S.

Cleaners

Hospital

G.P.

Neighbours  
up the street

Council

Police



Neighbours  
on one side

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Affairs

Market  
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Local Children

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VCAT

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ACAS

Case Manager 1

Hairdresser

Case Manager 2

Podiatrist

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# **CURRENT SITUATION**

- **Living in own home**
- **Some repairs funded by Veterans' Affairs**
- **Still shopping, banking independently**
- **3 cats and magpies**
- **Inside returned to previous state**
- **Daughter still rings**
- **Regular G.P.**
- **RDNS (daily)**
- **Podiatrist**
- **Case Manager**

# THE "TRUE" GENOGRAM

Beryl

~~d. Bootsie (20)~~

Muffy - pregnant  
with 3 kittens

???

pregnant with  
3 kittens

pregnant with  
3 kittens

kitten

