

*The UBC Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry &  
The Critical Research in Health and Healthcare Inequities Unit*

# Health History Lecture Series

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## **“We Can Do This But We Need To Do it Our Way”**

Oral history accounts of setting up a forensic psychiatric service in  
Auckland, New Zealand in the 1980s and 1990s.

Creating an institution in the context of deinstitutionalization?

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### **Dr. Kate Prebble**

Nurse Historian, Senior Lecturer  
University of Auckland  
School of Nursing

June 3, 2015  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

UBC School of Nursing  
Room T182 • UBC Hospital  
2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC

**This presentation** explores the development of forensic psychiatric services in Auckland, New Zealand in the late 1980s and 1990s. The story is based on oral histories undertaken with twenty-one participants who helped create the service. They told of an innovative service, shaped by driven, motivated people, following some inspiring leadership. The background for this innovation and change was the chaos and struggles of the mental health hospital Oakley/Carrington, wider political wrangles over whether responsibility for forensic patients lay with the Departments of Justice or Health, and the driving philosophy and policy of deinstitutionalisation. The forensic service that these contributors created was predicated on a distancing from the past chaos, and looking forward to creating a service that was new, different and with home-grown solutions.

**Dr. Prebble** is a nurse-historian with a long career in mental health nursing as a clinician, academic, and professional leader. Her primary research is in the social history of mental health nursing.



This lecture is co-sponsored by *The Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry* and *The Critical Research in Health and Healthcare Inequities Unit* at the UBC School of Nursing



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