



Kowhai Grove

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ABSTRACT Kowhai Grove is a small rest home facility in the Manawatu New Zealand. This article is based on observations of its relationships with the outside world, its economy, culture, and power structures. We will see how it has become a medicalised community and how labelling theory, the Dohrenwend model, and Seligman's learned helplessness can be applied to possible causes of depression and other psychopathologies in the elderly. General systems theory is applied to the study of the formal and informal power hierarchies, while Sarbin's theory of social roles provides valuable insight into the religious practices within the community.

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