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How do we understand healing? How do we as professionals place the voice of the people we serve to the forefront? Can we join with other like minded people to mirror safe relationships for those in our community who are hurt? “Our Healing: an empirical study of the interrelationship between therapeutic intervention and spiritual intervention in a social work private practice”, endeavoured to answer these questions. Using qualitative research techniques past clients and volunteers participated in answering these questions.

Client perspectives on their therapy and spirituality are an addition to the current professional exploration of spirituality in social work. The profession has discussed the inclusion of spirituality in practice, in literature and international forums, however, the inclusion of client’ voice on this topic has been so far quiet. It is the hope of this research to inform the professional arena of the need for inclusion and the resurrection of the issues of spirit in professional social work practice

This study would not have been possible without the support of Latrobe University and the expertise of Associate Professor Dr Martin Ryan of the School of Social Work and Social Policy. Over many years Dr Ryan has embodied a brilliant academic mind and the heart of a clinician which has given me an invaluable support for this work. I have also gained a good friend.

The research has provided the welcome addition of the client’s voice to discussion of issues of service and spirituality. The desire of clients for a spiritually driven intervention was high and their satisfaction with the service was evident. The clinical practice of healing will continue now informed by the research results and a new theory of client driven spiritual service called the “Resurrection Theory”.