POSTER ABSTRACTS

Community aged care: guidelines for a palliative approach

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Background: A palliative approach promotes quality of life for older people with life limiting illnesses or who are becoming increasingly frail; it is a holistic approach addressing physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs and can be provided by the usual care team. This project provided guidance for delivering a palliative approach for older people in the community setting. The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Methods: Guideline development of was based upon national consultation. Systematic reviews of the literature addressed key questions and led to the development of evidence based guidelines. These guidelines are supplemented with recommendations developed from expert consensus and additional literature reviews, called 'good practice points'.

Results: The main guideline document is designed for professionals involved in care; this forms a companion resource to the 2006 'Guidelines for a palliative approach in residential aged care', also funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. A web based document summarises development processes. Two brief booklets, written in 'plain English', are additional resources; one booklet is for older adults receiving care and their family carers, the other is for care workers. All the documents are approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Evidence based guidelines were developed in the areas of post-acute transitional care, crisis care, respite care and disease specific education for carers. Additional topic areas included advance care planning and advance health care directives, symptom assessment and management, psychosocial care, and spiritual support. The document also addresses the diversity of care recipients, many of whom have specific needs. For example, the needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other older people from culturally and linguistically diverse groups are addressed. This poster presents an overview of the development of the guideline documents and guidance that they offer.

Challenges of running Japanese senior learning programs by senior citizens

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This study focuses on the management of senior learning programs. There is a long history of senior learning programs in Japan. Before 1965 people generally assembled together and made study groups in their local areas before the government began programs. Currently most local councils are running senior learning programmes sponsored by different government agencies such as the sections of Welfare, Society, Education etc. Senior learning programs in Japan end up floating between these different agencies without any real definition. Most of these programs operate very differently even though they are supposed to be highly similar.

These programs were changed from time to time due to new policy implementations by the government across different agencies. Most of these programs however are generic in design with very few outlined goals or objectives due to budget constraints and a perceived 'target audience'.

S.Hori's research has found that the general outcome of these programs is of a social nature rather than an educational one. Since researchers have found that social activities promote various positive outcomes the learners is fairly satisfied with the current status quo. This had led to a lack of development within each program.

This lack of definition has led some seniors to want to organize their own local programs which would compete with the current public ones. Competing against public programs is often hard as public organizations have many clear competitive advantages in their favor as each program is heavily subsidized.

This study is to investigate different private learning programs to better understand their successes, failures, and overall outcomes in their management and administration.

Reference

'A study on the change of function of a Senior College – A comparative study in Nishinomiya City Senior College in 10 years.' Shigeo Hori, Japan Socio Gerontological Society, 2010.