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# No nursing homes': General Practitioner attitudes to residential aged care facility visiting

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# No nursing homes': General Practitioner attitudes to residential aged care facility visiting

## **Abstract**

Abstract of a poster presentation at the 2015 PHC Research Conference, Adelaide, 29-31 July, 2015.

## **Disciplines**

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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2015 PHC Research Conference: Poster abstract

Adelaide, 29-31 July, 2015

### **No nursing homes': General Practitioner Attitudes to Residential Aged Care Facility Visiting**

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Organisation

University of Wollongong

Aims & rationale

Demographic trends suggest that the sustainability of the GP Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) workforce is under threat, compromising the ongoing care of chronically ill RACF residents. It is therefore important to ascertain current GP attitudes towards this work, in order to help reduce the inequity this cohort of elderly Australians currently experience and improve their access to quality health care.

Methods

The views of a purposive sample of 26 GPs and GP Registrars working in rural and regional NSW were captured as part of focus group discussions and one-on-one interviews. Data were analysed by two independent coders, underlying themes were synthesised and ratified by the research team.

Findings

Thematic analysis of the qualitative data revealed that GP attitudes towards RACF visiting fell into five key themes: pleasure, duty, charity, hesitation and frustration. The data also revealed that the overriding emotion GPs felt about RACF visitation was frustration with the avoidable delays and inefficiencies associated with the work.

Relevance to policy, research and/or practice needs

This research provides insight into the barriers and enablers of efficient RACF health care provision. Its findings may assist RACF and general practice managers better understand how GPs and GP registrars feel about RACF visits, and how they may be able to better address the identified barriers in order to improve future access to quality health care for the elderly.

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Session theme

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