

**NZNO 10TH
NATIONAL GERONTOLOGY
SECTION CONFERENCE**

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**BACK
TO OUR
FUTURE**



Caring for older adults in residential care: What should we know?

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Photography*







health brain disorder treat
senile forget
stage losing nursing patient age disease forgetful
diagnostic dementia neurology decay medical problem functionality
healthcare senior aging damage symptoms alzheimer mental stress
memory therapy weakness degeneration function
preventive prevention remember
condition change confused insomnia

Ageing Process



What Matters Most? Study

- Large, private ARC provider piloting Eden Alternative program & philosophy of person-centred care
- Psychometric testing of QOL surveys: 120 across all facilities
 - Eden Warmth Surveys (EWS-R; EWS-S; EWS-F)
- Found to be valid and reliable measures
- 2 participating facilities surveyed pre-Eden:

QOL Domains

1. Physical Care
2. Functional activity
3. Privacy
4. Dignity
5. Meaningful Activities
6. Relationships
7. Cleanliness
8. Safety



Stakeholders



Methods

- Cross-sectional survey:
 - Residents (N=38),
 - Staff (N= 36)
 - Family members (N=35)
- Eden Warmth Surveys – (EWS-R; EWS-S; EWS-F)
- Overall satisfaction item: Residents; Family members
- SPSS - Correlation analyses



Results

Each stakeholder group reported different factors as most important to quality of life/care ...

What do you think the outcomes were?

- Residents ?
- Family ?
- Staff ?

Results - Family



Results - Staff



Results - Residents



*What they didn't want ...
meaningless inactivity*





1. Three plagues account for bulk of suffering among Elders
2. Commitment to a Human Habitat revolving around relationships
3. Companionship is the antidote to *loneliness*
4. Giving and receiving prevents *helplessness*
5. *Boredom* is prevented by spontaneous interactions
6. Meaningful activity is essential to human health
7. Medical treatment is a servant of care, not the master
8. Maximum decision-making authority belongs with the Elders
9. Creating Elder-centred communities is an ongoing process
10. Wise leadership is essential to the struggle against the three plagues

Conclusions: Stakeholder Perceptions

Perception of QOL and importance of activity,
varies across stakeholder groups:

- Effective opportunities for active ageing must start with the resident's perception and preferences
- Emphasis on resident-staff relationship is primary indicator of QOL; activity stems from this.
- Time and resource measures need to be explored



*Ultimately there's a need to get
everyone on the same page:
It's all about Relationship.*

