

What are our Realities and what is our Future

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Background

Health of the Older People Strategy -2002

Ageing in Place

Retirement Village living- understanding and expectations

The “bulge” of baby boomers-will increase demands on health and social services.

Baby boomers presently practicing health professionals

Demand for health professionals will exceed supply in all professions by 2011

Workforce ageing, recruitment and retention

What do we know ?

Caregivers in the home i.e. Spouse, partners are also becoming older-are we considering this in our assessments, discharges and future safe care

Baby boomers will have high expectations of their needs and care-will we be prepared to meet these?

Economic pressures on all levels of funding and care

Shortage of Registered staff

Retirement – Live life to the full

Retirement Villages will need to have a new perspective- not a place for the autumn years but to live life to the full

The resident grieves for the home/community they have left- this can be perceived as “giving up” independence, familiarity, family coming to stay

Assets perceived as compromised as home is seen as the biggest asset

“Independent living”-expectations about what this means

Ageing In Place

Concept that will strengthen as we are more in tune with it and acknowledge the complexity this encompasses

1994- Health and social policy ministers of OECD formulated overall objective of policies for care of frail older people

“Elderly people, including those in need of care and support should , wherever possible be enabled to continue living in their own homes, and where this is not possible they should be enabled to live in a sheltered and supportive environment which is as close to their community as possible, in both the social and geographical sense”(OECD 1994:3)

Living Independently

When do older people ask for help and what is the help they need

The need to support not only the person but also the family as they grieve for a life that is becoming increasingly difficult in this independent way.

How do we prepare for the baby boomer generation- we they expect more , will traditional structured living be acceptable

Half of the seniors in a recent study were open to new technologies to enable independent living, including sensors in their homes to monitor health

Living Independently-how can we address this into the future

We need to be constantly re-evaluating:

Well designed living areas to encourage independence

Providing meaningful, social interaction- social connections (Eden Alternative, helplessness, loneliness and boredom)

Reassure the older person to address their fears that are so real- physical, cognition impairment and disability can socially isolate them

The ageing population need to be valued by society to address their feeling of burden on family, friends and the system

Ageism can be overcome by open and honest communications

Reflections

We all care for a vulnerable population who need our collective knowledge to move forward

Lets work together – acknowledge each others expertise-we can not do this alone- silo mentality

Eden Alternative type approach

Ensure we support development in aged care so registered staff see this area as a growth area with expertise in clinical assessment crucial to residents safe and appropriate care and their success

Be open to changes required and communications with colleagues so care is enhanced and maximised

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts.

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