

Research to Practice in Community Aged Care

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ACSA Community Care Conference
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Research to Practice Briefings Project



- Aims to foster evidence-informed practice in community aged care
- Resource to stimulate discussion and reflection on practice
- Grew out of collaboration with Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW



The Benevolent Society



- Supports more than 17,000 children and adults pa, through services ranging from childcare, work with vulnerable families to community aged care
- 700 staff and 600 volunteers
- 124 programs across 48 locations in NSW and Queensland
- Revenue in 2009 was \$60m (73% from government sources)

What are we talking about



Evidence informed practice is the integration of best research evidence with practice expertise and the views of service users and carers.

Economic and Social Research Council 2003



The context

- We want better outcomes for clients
- How to bring together different worlds – of research, practitioners, policymakers and users
- Implementation of practice change is not easy
- Characteristics of the sector and workforce
- Practitioners need ways to access and engage with knowledge
- A gap in resources for community aged care workers

Research to Practice Briefings



- A resource for community aged care teams to stimulate discussion and reflection on their practice.
- Partnership between university academic and TBS
- Advisory committee
 - service providers
 - research/ academic
 - government
- National
- Funded by TBS

The process



- Selection of topics
- Drafting by research partner
- Review and revision
 - Advisory Committee
 - Care coordinators/ case managers
- Publication
- Seminar to launch
- Distribution and promotion

First three

<i>Care workers and care practices that support and enable good care</i>	SPRC, UNSW	Nov 2008
<i>Promoting social networks for older people</i>	SPRC, UNSW	Feb 2009
<i>Recognising, preventing and responding to abuse of older people</i>	Uni Melb	March 2010



Caring for older Australians: Care workers and care practices that support and enable good care

Care workers provide a range of care and support services for older people in the community. This paper draws on Australian and international research to examine the working practices of paid community care workers with a focus on how care workers and managers can best support and enable good care of older people living in their own homes.

The aim of this briefing is to draw from the research evidence of promising and innovative practices that can be readily adapted and incorporated by care workers and managers into their day-to-day work.

This Briefing has been prepared by the Social Policy Research Centre in partnership with The Benevolent Society.

Research to Practice Briefings bring together lessons learned from the literature on a topical issue in community aged care as a resource for those working in this sector. As in most areas of social policy and practice, the research evidence in the literature on community aged care is continually evolving. The Briefings aim to distil key themes and messages from the research and to point to promising and innovative practices.

An advisory group of academics and expert practitioners working in the area of aged care provide advice and peer review.

Research into Practice Briefing 1
November 2008



Promoting social networks for older people in community aged care

Older people's participation in social networks is a significant component of wellbeing. This Briefing focuses on the nature and impact of older people's social networks, and on how community aged care workers can promote participation in social networks by older clients living in their own homes.

The aim of this Briefing is to draw from the research evidence of promising and innovative practices that can be readily adapted and incorporated by care workers and managers into their day-to-day work.

This Briefing has been prepared by the Social Policy Research Centre in partnership with The Benevolent Society.

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Research to Practice Briefing 2
February 2009

In pipeline

<i>Supporting older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</i>	SPRC	Aug 2010
<i>Re-ablement approach to community care</i>	SCU	Late 2010
<i>Working with informal carers</i>	Wollongong Uni	Late 2010



- Summarises research in clear non-academic language
- Significance of the research for the day-to-day work of careworkers and managers.
- 6-8 pages
- Hard copy and on website
- References on website
- Distribution via email networks; practice, policy and research e-bulletins; government portals etc

What we've learnt



- Importance of involving practitioners at review stage, to get clear on practice context and implications, refine context and language
- More of a partnership
- Inclusion of Discussion Guide, so easier to use



Reach and impact?



- Evaluation of reach and impact
- Part of the picture
- Interest in format from other orgns
- Launch and seminar helps gets people on board
- Talking to TAFE
- Other avenues for distribution?
- Your feedback and ideas ?



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