

**NZNO 10<sup>TH</sup>  
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 **Ageing Process** memory  
stage losing nursing patient see disease forgetful aging damage symptoms alzheimer mind therapy prevention  
diagnostic dementia neurology decay medical problem functionality confusion treatment aging damage symptoms alzheimer mind therapy prevention  
healthcare senior neurology medical illness elderly confusion treatment aging damage symptoms alzheimer mind therapy prevention  
weakness degeneration function clinic stress



# *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.*

