

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Residential Aged Care

Professor Rhonda Griffiths and Dr Liz Halcomb, N-FORCE Research Group, together with Carrington Centennial Care Ltd, Macarthur Division of General Practice, Queen Victoria Memorial Home, Sydney South West Area Health Service and Australian Institute of Workplace Learning have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to develop a multidisciplinary case conference approach to health care delivery promoting best practice and proactive planning for the future health needs of people in aged care.



'The aim of the project is to develop a residential aged care model that includes regular formal health assessment, advance care planning, and resident/family consultation. A formal process for planning and monitoring care is an important strategy to provide individualised health care and minimize risk to residents and clinicians,' says Professor Griffiths. 'We use the philosophy of "ageing in place", where residents receive care in the same location regardless of changes in their acuity or care needs. Through this study we aim to significantly improve the health status and quality of life of the growing number of residents in aged care facilities across Australia.'

The intervention will involve a Registered Nurse-led multidisciplinary case conference to assess resident health status and proactively plan future care. Researchers will assess improved health care delivery by measuring a reduction in resident's falls and emergency department presentations, improvement in the number of their prescribed medications, the complexity of their medication regime and behaviour management. They will also measure changes to the level of satisfaction in care experienced by residents, their family members and their clinicians.

The project team will disseminate the findings of this project widely to professional groups, including residential aged care, general practitioners, nursing groups, as well as policymakers, politicians and relevant government agencies.

Project Title: *The development of a multidisciplinary case conferencing model for residential aged care: A feasibility study*

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Contact Details:

rhonda.griffiths@swsahs.nsw.gov.au

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