

# A comparison of verbal communication and psychiatric medication use by Greek and Italian residents with dementia in Australian ethno-specific and mainstream aged care facilities

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**Reference:**

**Key Words:**

dementia, social interaction, language proficiency, residential care facilities

**Research aim:**

This project compared verbal communication and prescribed psychiatric medication of Greek and Italian residents with dementia in ethno-specific and mainstream residential care.

**Results/Conclusion:**

The observed rate of resident-to-resident communication was higher in the ethno-specific facilities. Staff-to-resident interaction rate did not differ between the facility types. Residents in ethno-specific care were prescribed antipsychotics at a significantly lower rate.

**Implications:**

Residents with dementia and limited English language proficiency in mainstream care would benefit from greater opportunities to interact with peers in their own language. Prescribed medication should be monitored to ensure that these residents are not misinterpreted as "disruptive," or are not actually more agitated due to difficulty in communicating their needs.

**Cultural Group(s):**

Greek, Italian

**Location of study:**

Residential care facilities

**Age group:**

**Number included in study:**

82

**Type of participants:**

older Greek and Italians diagnosed with dementia in ethno specific and mainstream care

**Research approach:**

Observation, qualitative

**Type of data:**

Primary

**Secondary data sources used:**

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**

cross referenced in dementia workbook