

A qualitative study into the use of formal services for dementia by carers from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities

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Reference:

Key Words:

CALD carers, informal care, dementia

Research aim:

This study addresses a lack of literature on the use of formal services for dementia by people from CALD backgrounds by examining the experiences and perceptions of dementia caregiving within four CALD communities - Italian, Chinese, Spanish and Arabic-speaking - in south western Sydney, Australia.

Results/Conclusion:

People from CALD communities are often unfamiliar with the concept of formal services and there may be strong cultural norms about maintaining care within the family, rather than relying on external services. There is a preference for services that will allow families to keep their relative at home, for safety as well as cultural reasons, and they are particularly reluctant to use residential care. While there is a preference for ethno-specific or multicultural services, mainstream services also need to ensure they are more flexible in providing culturally appropriate care.

Implications:

While members of CALD communities may have difficulties accessing formal services, they will use them if they are culturally and linguistically appropriate and can meet their needs. There are a number of ways to improve service

Cultural Group(s):

Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic speaking

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

Number included in study:

121 family carers, 60 health professionals

Type of participants:

family carers of CALD with dementia, health professionals

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: