

Diverse strategies for diverse carers: the cultural context of family carers in NSW

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Key Words:

informal care, CALD and non-CALD comparison

Research aim:

Aimed to increase awareness and understanding of the diversity of caring experiences, and the inter relationship of cultural, socio economic and gender issues in shaping the everyday experiences of carers from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and Anglo Australian backgrounds

Results/Conclusion:

1) Identification with the role of 'carer' acted as a strategic means to access services, including Centrelink payments. This degree of cultural competence varied between individuals and had a direct impact in their ability to access services and payments. 2) CALD families referred more often to ethno-cultural values to explain their caring commitment while Anglo-Australian carers tended to describe this responsibility as one associated primarily with family roles understood outside a broader cultural frame.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

CALD (20 birthplace groups included), Australia born

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

40+

Number included in study:

34 CALD, 8 Australia-born

Type of participants:

34 CALD providing informal care, 8 Australia-born carers providing informal care

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Length of residence in Australia did not translate into knowledge of services, with some carers having lived in the country for more than 30 years but still unaware of the services available. Furthermore, the level of English language proficiency did not relate to length of residence with some carers requiring interpreters despite living in Australia for more than 20 years.