

# Families and nursing home placements: A cross-cultural study

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**Key Words:**

perceptions of care, informal care, cross cultural comparison, residential care, cultural beliefs

**Research aim:**

This paper explores the responses of people from four cultural groups living in Australia (Anglo-Celtic Australian, Chinese, Greek, Lebanese) to a critical incident scenario about a Russian family in Australia faced with such a decision.

**Results/Conclusion:**

The responses to this scenario were remarkably similar across the four cultural groups. All saw making such a decision as difficult, but the reasons for the difficulty suggest some interesting cross-cultural distinctions. Some groups viewed care of a family member more in terms of a social and role obligation while others addressed it as a personal responsibility. To not care for elderly parents in the home was accompanied by a sense of guilt among some respondents and a sense of public social shame among others. Ambivalence about nursing homes and placing a family member in a nursing home, culture change and cross-generational differences, and roles and role support were other important themes.

**Implications:**

The findings from this research suggests a need to examine more closely the beliefs and assumptions associated with nursing home placements and one way to help students and health professionals to do so.

**Cultural Group(s):**

Anglo-Celtic Australians, Chinese, Greek, Lebanese

**Location of study:**

New South Wales (Sydney)

**Age group:**

20-66

**Number included in study:**

20

**Type of participants:**

people from Anglo-Celtic Australian, Chinese, Greek, and Lebanese backgrounds from a variety of age groups and lengths of residency in Australia

**Research approach:**

Qualitative

**Type of data:**

Primary

**Secondary data sources used:**

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**