

Muslims in Australia and their aged care needs: An exploratory study with special reference to South Australia

Author/s: Khan, Shamsul Ahmad, Mahjabeen | **Year:** 2013 | **Publication type:** Report | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Culturally Appropriate Care

Reference:

Key Words:

Research aim:

A first step toward making aged care in general, and residential care in particular, responsive to the needs of the Muslim community in South Australia.

Results/Conclusion:

the main argument of this Report is that faith considerations must be recognised in care planning and delivery so that appropriate care can be offered to practicing Muslims. the diversity of cultural and linguistic backgrounds of Muslims has one point of unity: Islam. Religion has an enormous role in the planning, development, and delivery of aged care services and that such processes must reflect an increased focus on incorporating recipient needs based on their religious beliefs along with those related to cultural and linguistic diversity. This Report calls for a new approach to providing aged care to Muslims. In line with this approach, there are four major points of departure of this Report. Firstly, the Report contends that it cannot be just the right to access aged care information and services that needs to be ensured; the right to access relevant and appropriate aged care information and services is what is critical. Thus, merely increasing or facilitating access to existing services would not fulfil all of the important needs of those who adhere to Islam's prescribed way of life. Secondly, although the Report acknowledges the significant importance of culture and language in the provision of quality care, it strongly asserts that spirituality and religion are no less important. Thirdly, the Report argues that there needs to be a paradigm shift of spiritual care from the fringes of aged care services delivery such as in palliative or end-of-life care to the centre stage of aged care, covering its entire spectrum. Fourthly, the Report stresses the importance of understanding the relationships between spirituality and religion. In the western and secular societies, religion takes a backseat with culture and/or language at the centre of aged care services planning. In such societies, spirituality enjoys a more positive connotation compared to religion which is seen in a more negative light. For those outside the Islamic faith, the concepts of religion and spirituality may have separate meanings and may exist separately; not so for Muslims, for whom religion is a means to achieving spirituality and these two dimensions cannot be separated.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Muslims

Location of study:

South Australia

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Type of data:

Literature review

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: