

Qualitative Research on Dementia in Ethnically Diverse Communities: Fieldwork Challenges and Opportunities

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Reference:

Key Words:

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Research aim:

This article discusses the fieldwork phase of a qualitative research project on dementia caregiving in 4 CALD communities in south west Sydney, Australia. Rather than focusing on the study results—which have been published elsewhere—this article presents and discusses crucial fieldwork issues that arose in the conduct of the project, particularly regarding participant recruitment and facilitation of focus groups.

Results/Conclusion:

In being transparent about some of the difficulties encountered and how these were managed, we offer suggestions for other researchers wanting to include CALD communities in a meaningful way in their research projects. Found liaising with community workers and networks the most useful approach to recruiting participants Double sided information sheets - one side in English - are a good strategy Don't make assumptions about participants understandings of things - e.g. difficulty with the word 'carers' from some CALD participants don't identify with this word because caring is a role they naturally take with family members, they don't see themselves explicitly in that role Many participants had difficulty understanding what focus groups was and thought it must be a support group or information session Community feedback is very important - many participants wanted to hear outcomes of the research Researchers need to ensure they have adequate financial and human resources (e.g. translators) before undertaking research with CALD communities rather than assuming they can proceed with minimal resources. It is vital that researchers accept this reality—that there are some areas of knowledge that they will not have automatic or easy access to—and that they will only access it if they develop collaborative and respectful relationships with the bilingual/ bicultural fieldworkers.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

CALD

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Discussion paper about researching CALD populations