

The host-homes program: an innovative model of respite for carers of people with dementia

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Key Words:

Dementia, respite, service provision, Koori, non-English speaking backgrounds,

Research aim:

To investigate the operation of an innovative community respite program run by the Brotherhood of St Laurence: the Banksia 'host-home' program, which was designed to provide respite for up to six people with dementia in a care-worker's home.

Results/Conclusion:

People using the program were those who experienced barriers utilising centre-based programs for older people for a range of reasons including advanced dementia, hearing difficulties, difficulties in social interaction or confusion. Carers were very appreciative of the service, and care-recipients appeared to enjoy the program immensely, citing caring staff, social contact and activities as things they appreciated most. The host-home program provided an accessible respite option for those unable to use centre based services. It enabled more individually tailored activities, greater socialisation and greater attention from staff than possible in centre-based services.

Implications:

Since the model creates the potential for cost shifting and because of difficulties in supervising staff in their own homes, sidelines and standards appropriate to host-home programs should be established to ensure quality of care and to protect paid staff and service users.

Cultural Group(s):

Not specific to CALD but includes CALD participants

Location of study:

Victoria

Age group:

Not specific - services providers, family carer givers and care recipients

Number included in study:

4 service providers, 7 care givers, 18 care recipients

Type of participants:

Service providers, care givers and respite recipients

Research approach:

Type of data:

Mixed

Secondary data sources used:

Program data from service provider

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: