



*Ethics, intimacy and
end of life in aged
care:
creating non-
discriminatory spaces*

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Defining
intimacy



Barriers to
intimacy in
aged care
settings

Why intimacy matters





Enabling connection and intimacy in aged care – what does ethics say?

- Human right to physical intimacy & sexual expression
- Dignity-promoting
 - Fundamental to identity and self-expression
 - Choice
 - What do violations of dignity mean in this context?
- Fundamental to relational well-being
- Fundamental to quality of dying
- Avoiding harms
 - Avoid medicalizing under the guise of duty of care
 - Risks of over-protection and intrusion

REVIEW ARTICLE



How do community-dwelling LGBT people perceive sexuality in residential aged care? A systematic literature review

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To investigate what empirical studies report on the perceptions of community-dwelling LGBT adults regarding sexuality and sexual expression in residential aged care (RAC), and how their sexuality should be addressed in RAC.

Methods: Relevant papers were identified through electronic searches in databases; and by reference tracking and citation tracking. Data were extracted using a standardized data extraction form and were compared, related, and synthesized using thematic analyses. We evaluated the methodological quality of the studies.

Results: Eighteen articles were identified. Three major topics emerged regarding sexuality in RAC: (1) factors affecting LGBT people's perceptions, subdivided into (a) discrimination, (b) loss of sexual identity, (c) failure to acknowledge the same-sex partner, and (d) lack of privacy; (2) LGBT-specific RAC facilities; and (3) characteristics of LGBT friendly RAC facilities and caregivers.

Conclusions: LGBT people have clear perceptions about how sexuality and sexual expression is or should be managed in RAC. Despite the general increase in acceptance of sexual minorities, many community-dwelling LGBT people believe older LGBT residents are discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Taking into account these opinions is crucial for increasing accessibility of RAC to LGBT people and to ensure the quality of the provided care.

ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Sexuality; aged care; nursing homes; perceptions; LGBT



Social justice: creating non-discriminatory care environments

- LGBT elders – concerns in entering residential aged care
 - Heteronormative assumptions
 - “Back into the closet” OR yet another outing
 - No privacy for intimacy expression
 - No recognition of same sex partner or blocking their access as the resident becomes ill/dying

Ensuring ALL residents retain the civil liberties and choice they've always had outside residential care

Intimacy and dying

'til death

Margaret Ambridge, 2017





“Intimacy – a place for solace, privacy, confiding, telling and retelling one’s story – is the lathe upon which the challenge of death can be answered.”

Professor Steven Miles, MD Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Bioethics,
University of Minnesota





- Getting started
- Help at home
- Aged care homes
- Costs
- Find a service
- Quality and complaints
- Login



Home > Help at home > Home care packages > Consumer Directed Care (CDC)

Consumer Directed Care (CDC)

Print

Home care packages are delivered on a Consumer Directed Care (CDC) basis. This means you (and your carer) have more choice and control over what services are delivered and where and when they are delivered.



Australian Government

Department of Health

CHARTER OF CARE RECIPIENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – RESIDENTIAL CARE

Aged Care Act 1997, Schedule 1 User Rights Principles 2014



Ageing and Aged Care

- Home
- News and resources
- Programs
- Reform
- Funding
- Quality
- Support services

Home / Quality / Single quality framework: focus on consumers

Single quality framework: focus on consumers

The complicated sex life of baby boomers

Divorces. Ailing parents. Boomerang kids. These days, fifty- and sixtysomethings sure are keeping busy. But that's not about to stop the free love generation from, ahem, getting busy.



Aging Baby Boomers – patients (customers) with attitude





Bringing 'intimacy needs' in from the periphery

- Expectation setting pre-admission
- Assessment of privacy and intimacy needs
- Changing practice to better provide for residents' privacy and get right locus of decision-making
- Built environments that support privacy
- Addressing staff concerns (cultural/religious/legal)
- Supporting institutional policy
- Non-discriminatory implementation: avoid ring fencing