

Research Priorities in Residential Aged Care Services: A Statewide Survey

Rayner et al. (2020)
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For which topic were research priorities identified?
residential aged care services

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?
Australia - Australia

Why was it conducted at all?
Most people entering RACS require 24-hour care and support: 60% need assistance with feeding, dressing, personal hygiene and mobility; 72.1% have high needs related to dementia behaviours; and 61.3% have complex healthcare needs including chronic illnesses such as dementia. These illnesses severely impact on individual care needs and functional ability. The projected doubling of Australians aged ≥85 years plus over the next two decades will drive the demand for residential aged care. Ideally, the provision of evidence-based aged care should be built on rigorous research involving both residents and staff. Nurses in RACS are well positioned to identify gaps in practice and contribute to research that aims to improve residential care.

What was the objective?
to ascertain the research priorities of staff working in Victorian residential aged care services

What was the outcome?
a list of 3 research areas

How long did the research prioritization take?
October 2016 - June 2017

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?
survey

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?
Step 1: survey asking participants to list three research priorities. Step 2: data processing: thematic analysis, resulting in 3 research areas

Which stakeholders took part?
Victorian residential aged care services. Participants: 162 care services.

How were stakeholders recruited?
The invitation to the survey was addressed to the director of nursing (DON), nurse unit manager (NUM) or manager.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?
Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.