

Residential Aged Care – In whose hands?

Anita De Bellis RN MN MRCNA

Phd Candidate

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Faculty of Health Sciences

SA Gerontology Conference 2006

Ageing – A changing Paradigm – in whose hands?

9th Conjoint Scientific Meeting

Friday 30th June 2006

Stamford Grand, Glenelg



Aged Care Policy and Nursing

We have a Problem



AGED CARE NURSING

- **The Value**
- **The Image**
- **Elder Abuse**
- **Ageism**



REFORMS

- **Aged Care Reforms 1987**
- **Structural Aged Care Reforms 1997**
- **The Aged Care Act 1997**



AGED CARE POLICY

- **Accommodation**
- **Ageing Population**
- **Increasing Health Costs**
 - **Quality of Life**
- **Accreditation Process**



RESIDENTS of RACFs

- **5.3% persons over 65 years of age**
- **Approximately 6,500 young persons**
- **Profile**
 - **Complex nursing care needs**
 - **Increasing acuity**
 - **Shorter length of stay**
 - **Palliative in nature**



AGED CARE POLICY

- **Residential Care**
- **Ageing in Place**
- **Nursing**
 - Silenced**
 - Made Invisible**
 - Non-Nurses**
 - Non-Nursing Care**



Nursing Practice

- **RN Role**
 - **Documentation**
 - **Medication Administration**
 - **Technical Procedures**
 - **Emergencies**
 - **Distanced**



DOCUMENTATION

- **Categorisation**
- **Accreditation**
- **Validation**
- **Aged Care Funding Instrument**
- **NATFRAME**



QUALITY OF NURSING CARE

The Rhetoric

- **Certification**
- **Accreditation**
- **Complaints Mechanism**
- **Well Meaning Staff**
- **Legislated Rights of Residents**
- **Guide to Ethical Conduct for RACFs**
- **Adequate Funding**
 - **Appropriate Skillmix**
 - **Resident to Staff Ratios**



QUALITY OF NURSING CARE

The Reality

- **A Discourse of Neglect**
- **Behind Open Doors**



Indecent Haste

- When a minute is a half an hour

- The Resident Time**
- Time Stressed or Time Poor**
- Wait on Time**



A Risky Existence

- When safe is unsafe

- **Negligent Practices**
- **Unsafe Nursing Practices**



A Documentation Quagmire

- **When funding drives the discourses**
- **Frictions, Fictions, and Fraud**
- **Out of Date and Dangerous**
- **Demeaning and Denigrating Documentation**



Under the Sheets

- **When incontinence becomes normalised**
- **Product Driven Incontinence Management**
- **The Normalisation of Incontinence Regimes**



Misdirected Stimulation

- When a home is not homelike

- **Environmental (Non-)Considerations**
- **Stimulation, Socialisation, Activities, and Interactions**



Non-Autonomy

- When practices are unethical

- **Non-Choices**
- **Unethical Discourses and Practices**



Vigilance and Advocacy

– When you need to be there

- **Have to Come In**
- **Good Nurses**
- **Not-So-Good Nurses**



THE SYSTEM

- **Inadequate funding allocated for nursing care**
- **A lack of trained and qualified nurses**
- **Complex nursing care classified as 'non-nursing' care**
- **A documentation quagmire**
- **Distant gaze of RNs**
 - **Accountable and Responsible**
 - **Increased Attrition**
 - **Cannot nurse**



THE FUTURE

- New Model
- Based on the Old Model
- Increased Distancing of RNs and ENs



IN CONCLUSION

- **Active Support**
- **Awareness**



Thankyou

