The Social Contact Received by the Residents of Rural Nursing Homes

Visiting in the New England Area of New South Wales

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Visiting is Important

- Maintains family ties
- Provides contact with the outside world
- Provides staff with an insight into the residents’ personality and life history
Previous Research

- Social Networks
- Relationship
- Gender
- Age
- Size
- Connectedness

- Reason for visiting
- Transport
- Distance
- Nursing home policy and attributes
Method

• Quantitative, exploratory, descriptive
• Telephone survey with next of kin - proxy
• Visitors’ Diary
• Telephone survey with Directors of Nursing
Participants

• Telephone survey
  ● 13 nursing homes
  ● 268 residents’ proxies (638)

• Visitors’ diary
  ● 876 family & friends
  ● 3408 visits

• 120 volunteers (236 visits)
Nursing Homes

- **Size**
  - 23 - 80 beds (mean 50.9, sd 17.07)

- **Profit status**
  - FP 6(46.2%), NFP 7(53.8%)

- **Location**
  - rural 7(53.8%), urban 6(46.2%)

- **Privacy**
  - 7(53.8%) 6(46.2%)

- **Community Integration**
Nursing Staff

- Nursing staff no. -11.74 - 53.7 (mean, sd)
- Nursing staff skill mix - AIN, EN, RN, SRN
- Nursing staff to resident ratio - 0.33 - 0.93 (mean 0.50, sd 0.15)
- Nursing staff turnover rate - 1-17 (mean 13, sd 5.2)
Nursing Home Policy

- Policy on visiting 10(76.9%) 3(23.1%)
- Support group 11(84.6%) 2(15.4%)
- Information 12(92.3%) 1(7.7%)
- Roles 9(69.2%) 4(30.8%)
- Education 7(53.8%) 6(46.2%)
Predictors of Frequency of Visit

- Distance travelled to the nursing home
- Relationship to the resident
- Duration of visit
Predictors of Duration of Visit

- Distance travelled to the nursing home
- Relationship to the resident
- Method of transport
- Integration of the nursing home into the local community
Implications

• Residents placed in facilities which are within 15 kilometres of members of their primary family group
• Transport to the nursing home be shared
• Nursing homes become more integrated into their local communities