

The study

Background

Residential aged care facilities serve the dual role of providing care for older people and being the permanent dwelling place for their residents. This complex situation requires homes to consider the quality of life as well as quality of care issues. However, currently there is not an agreed national set of quality indicators for long term residential aged care in Australia.

The Australian Government commissioned a project to assess the impact of accreditation on the quality of care and quality of life of residents in aged care homes and to identify options for the measurement of quality improvements in the future provision of care. This poster outlines the methodology used by this project and reviews its findings. The commissioned project involved two stages.

Stage one

- Literature review and analysis of the regulatory framework applicable to residential aged care interviews with stakeholders.
- Design of a survey.

Stage two

- Quantitative surveys across the three stakeholder groups.
- Development of a draft suite of quality indicators for measuring the quality of care and quality of life of residents in long term aged care homes.

Results

Participants reported that the accreditation process has:

- improved the overall quality of residential aged care homes in Australia and
- positively impacted the quality of care and life of residents but improved measures are needed.

Outcomes

A suite of resident-centred quality indicators has been drafted and a further project established to refine and test them.

