

Community Care Northern Beaches Peer Mentoring Topic

Research into Practice Briefing: 'Caring for older Australians: Care workers and care practices that support and enable good care'.

Read the research to practice briefing, and discuss in your group the following issues/questions:

1. The article talks about the highest levels of job satisfaction for care workers resulting from the “aspects of their work over which they have the most control”. Can you relate to this? Can you identify some benefits and dilemmas in facilitating this type of environment for care workers?
2. One study identified in the briefing reported that “workers obtained satisfaction from keeping older people comfortable, seeing them make progress, being missed when off duty and being confided in”. Discuss this in relation to the needs and wellbeing of workers and clients.
3. The research identified that “positive relationships which mirror everyday social relationships are highly desired between elderly people and formal care providers...” and, that “strong professional relationships between workers and clients should be viewed as a strength to be harnessed, not a weakness to be avoided”... What are the pros and cons of such assertions?
4. As a group, discuss how you would want your services to be provided if you were a client. What would the client/direct care worker relationship 'look like'? Do you feel that we plan and deliver care in this way?