FINAL EVALUATION OF THE "MAKING HEALTH CHOICES" ADVANCE CARE PLANNING IN AGED CARE PROJECT

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Published literature suggests that advance care planning (ACP) activity in aged-care homes is inconsistent and often of poor quality. There are few published reports of the effectiveness of formal training and implementation of ACP in aged-care homes. The Respecting Patient Choices Program piloted a training and implementation model in 19 aged-care homes in Victoria, Australia in 2010-11. The model required

Measurement	Pre-training (%)	Post-training (%)	P value
% of staff reporting the existence of written policies on ACP in aged-care homes.	53	100	0.008
% of aged-care homes. which discuss medical treatment options with resident/family	42	100	0.016
% of aged-care homes which discuss "things that matter most about life and living" with resident	8	92	0.009
% of aged-care homes reporting that ACP information is used effectively within the facility.	33	100	0.013
% of staff reporting that ACP is carried out "well/very well" within their aged-care home.	25	100	0.009
Mean staff score on ACP knowledge test [SD]	4.4 [1.1]	5.7 [0.9]	0.001

Abstracts

selected aged-care home nurses and management staff to attend 3 workshops over a 6-month period and complete pre and post-workshop tasks. The workshops included didactic and experiential teaching, discussions and role plays. Model evaluation included ACP documentation audits, in addition to pre and post implementation surveys to examine aged-care home ACP policies and practices, and staff knowledge, attitudes and behaviours around ACP. Key results were as follows:

The available data suggests that the RPC model of ACP in aged-care homes succeeded in training staff and implementing ACP.