

1700

Challenging attitudes and understanding of the complexity of residential aged care

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Introduction: Aged care has been identified as an important setting for workforce innovation and training. Evaluation undertaken in an Australian Teaching and Research in Aged Care Services commonwealth funded project identified the need for improved orientation to aged care to address stereotypical and limiting attitudes of health students.

Objective: This presentation presents the development of a learning resource aimed at challenging students' understanding of the complexity of aged care with a view of better preparing them to undertake a placement in aged care.

Approach: Informed by transformative learning website (agedcareawareness.com.au) is designed to challenge assumptions associated with aged care. Through authentic storylines and film footage learners are exposed to the realities of practice. Learners are prompted to respond to key statements and receive direct feedback from the characters in the film - there is no right or wrong answer and responses are targeted at prompting deeper reflection.

Practice implications: The website is being used by universities and aged care providers as an orientation and learning tool. It can be used in a group setting to promote discussion or at an individual level. There are four modules addressing different aspects of aged care services. An assessment component can be undertaken by individuals to provide evidence of completion of each learning module.

Conclusion: Aged care is a rich practice area and the development of the Aged Care Awareness website provides a valuable learning resource to assist in orientating people to the complexity of this practice area.