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Providing culturally appropriate residential aged care – The Australian experience

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With a diverse multicultural community, Australia now faces an increasing demand on aged care services that are tailored to those from culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups. While previous approaches have been very successful for a number of larger ethnic communities, including those of Italian and Greek origin, it has not proven successful for communities with much smaller populations residing in Australia. As a result, Australia now sees increasing pressure from an increasing number of smaller CALD groups to establish aged care homes to provide targeted services for their particular communities. This presentation will explore how Australia has addressed this challenge on a national level through mainstream services since the introduction of the Aged Care Act 1997 and will discuss how this approach will now change under the new Consumer Directed Care model being introduced on 1 July 2019.

Biography

Rodney is a registered nurse and holds undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in Nursing and Management with a specialization in the care of older people (Gerontology). Rodney has worked in the aged care industry since 1989, and was a clinical adviser for the Department of Health and Ageing where he provided advice directly to the Aged Care Complaints Scheme and the department more broadly through Ministerial and Expert Technical Reference committees. His current role is Principal Advisor of Aged Care Consulting & Advisory Services Australasia Pty Ltd, a Sydney based boutique consultancy focusing on residential aged care.

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