



Planning dementia care through case conferencing

Transcript

Jill Allsopp RN: Why use facilitated case conferencing for people with advanced dementia (Short)

I think the greatest thing is to have the doctors, the staff, the carers, the DTs (Diversional therapist) and the family all on the same page at the same time. Actually speaking to the family, knowing what they actually want as opposed to what the doctor thinks.

The other thing also with conferencing is getting all the family members together and not all families are all in the same tune. Some have different expectations, some have come to a different stage at a different time, some are accepting and some are still fighting to keep something of their loved one alive long past when it's gone. So having them all speak at once in an environment where there is an mediator or even just a convener, a facilitator or whatever you want to call them, someone who is outside the emotional loop of the family.

Often a conference goes for anything up to an hour. The most benefit is gained definitely by having the doctor if you can but certainly the main carers and the family because they are the day to day people, you know, in the salt mine. They're the people working away and they have the greatest impact towards the end. It's the carers that have the most impact on the family and how they grieve.

We have amazing carers who look after these people who know their little idiosyncrasies, who can identify changes no matter how minuet they are, long before the doctor will or the registered nurse will so it's really important that we know where they've come from in the past so when they come to the end stages, we are giving them those comforts that they are familiar with.

We had a gentleman who passed away not so long ago who was a park ranger. For all his career, he was a park range, longest servicing park ranger in Australia actually and he loved the outdoors and he loved animals and birds and birdlife. So in his last days, we had bird music playing, we had visuals just being showed to him, just books opened on parks in Australia and talking about wild life and just chatting to him about things he was familiar with and allowing him to be able to look into the outdoors not just being stuck in a room. So he could look at the trees, he could hear the birds and he died in a way that I thought was a very comforting way.

The more we offer, the more people want to be involved, you know, take the cot side down, do you want your mums dog to come and lie on the bed with her? Take the cot side down, put the pillow beside mum, lie with her, just offer them and they don't always



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do it, but by the offering, they realise that that barrier of a bedrail or a single bed is broken down so they can actually and I have seen people hop into bed and cuddle mum at the end of life and when someone is grieving, that is such an amazing thing to hold onto.

This is a transcript of Jill Allsopp: Why use facilitated case conferencing for people with advanced dementia (short) video. To view the video visit www.caresearch.com.au/DementiaCare