

Wintringham

Ageing Safely Forum Adelaide 2009

Consider Robert

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Presentation Overview

- Wintringham Services Issues facing the older homeless
- Case profile “**Bob**”
- Issues facing older people with cognitive deficits & complex care needs
- The Wicking Project – A model of residential care for older people living with an Alcohol Related Brain Injury (ARBI)

WINTRINGHAM

Dignified services to
elderly homeless
men and women



Wintringham is driven by a simple
and overwhelming conviction:
we believe in social justice



Robert “Bob”

- 54 years of age
- Was a biker
- Sustained multiple leg fractures in a bike accident 18 years ago resulting in permanent disability
- Has been drinking alcohol since the age of twelve
- Used to work as a barman
- Loves animals and bikes



Bob's previous accommodation has included....

squats ...



...slept rough ...



...& in the backyard shed of a mate's place



Currently...

Bob lives in a cheap rooming house where he has clocked up 2 warnings because of neighbour complaints & rent arrears.



Behaviours



- Aggression toward objects & people
- Binge drinking
- Smoking indoors
- Theft
- Suicide attempts
- Prone to loud verbal outbursts
- Poor self care
- Non-compliant with medication

Currently in Australia....

The aged care system struggles to meet the requirements to adequately support the needs of the older homeless people.

When the older homeless person also suffers from cognitive deficits as a result of an acquired brain injury (ABI) or alcohol-related brain injury (ARBI), the problem is only exacerbated.

At present the most frequent drug of abuse among the elderly is alcohol¹

- In a recent study in Melbourne, 43% of an elderly(50+YO) homeless population reported having issues with alcohol².
- 75% of older Salvation Army Service clients in Melbourne, were reported to have a cognitive impairment; the majority being alcohol related brain injury³.
- The problem is much more wide spread than among the older homeless population⁴.
- Alcohol abuse among the older population is grossly under diagnosed⁴.

¹ McCabe, L. (2005) , ²Lipmann, B.,Mirabelli, F & Rota-Bartelink, A. (2004), ³Hecker, K. (2002), ⁴Thomas, V. & Rockwood. K. (2001)

How does alcohol damage the brain?

- **Direct**
 - Toxic damage to brain tissue
- **Indirect**
 - Poor nutrition
 - Thiamine absorption
 - Dehydration
 - Metabolic functioning
- **Secondary**
 - Assaults & Falls
 - Car accidents



Client Profile – Long Term Drinkers

- **Homelessness**
- **Premature ageing**
- **Little or no family or friends**
- **Limited finances**
- **Self-neglect & malnutrition**
- **Traumatic injuries and assaults**
- **Reluctant to seek appropriate, timely medical care & poor compliance**



Client Profile Cont.

- **Social Isolation**
- **Impaired sense of safety or trust**
- **Ongoing addictions – alcohol, other drugs, gambling**
- **Imprisonment & Institutionalisation**
- **Complex/Challenging behaviours**
- **Coexisting mental illnesses**
- **Acquired Brain Injury – alcohol and other**
- **Guardianship & Administration Orders**

Appropriate, dignified supported housing



The Wicking Project

Supporting the Long-term Residential Care Needs of Older People with Severe Acquired Brain Injury

**Wintringham
The J.O & J.R Wicking Trust**

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Psychosocial Model of Residential Care

The Wicking Trial

- 4 individuals with severely affected behaviours are being housed and supported together in a dedicated Wintringham hostel
- Selective recruitment for a history of unsuccessful tenancies arising from behaviours associated with ARBI
- Individualised & specialised care, support & behaviour management strategies & controlled drinking program
- Encouragement and support to maximally utilise recreation & diversional activities
- Highly trained & skilled personnel & ongoing neuropsychological case management

Now Consider Bob



If he were referred to your service would you....

- a) Accept the referral?
- b) Consider him to be too great a risk?
- c) Struggle to manage his behaviours appropriately and effectively?



References

www.wintringham.org.au

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