



International Perspectives on Residential Aged Care

INTRODUCTION

The proportion of adults 65 and older in the world is growing every year. Current estimates suggest that because of this, there will be an increasing need for residential long-term care (LTC). Residential LTC facilities have variations worldwide, however the most common of these are nursing homes and assisted living facilities (ALF), both of which provide care for frail older

THE TRANSITION TO RESIDENTIAL CARE

Research has suggested that across many cultures older adults prefer to age in place. This is believed to be because one's sense of home is found to define a large part of who they are and allow them to feel more in control of their life. The preference to age in place is often violated when an older adult transitions into LTC, where they feel their social connections and sense of home are jeopardized. Studies have shown, however, that one's sense of home in LTC can be vastly improved when older adults are provided with an opportunity to build new emotional connections and to continue their relationship with their community. Additionally, when older adults are not involved in the decision making process for their own LTC, they are more likely to struggle with the transition into one. Therefore, when they are involved in this process, they have a greater sense of control in their lives and report a more positive transition into LTC. This is in contrast to those who had little choice, as they tend to have increased feelings of helplessness and sadness. Overall,

are greatly influenced by the culture of the country where they are located, with countries in the West having more problems with privacy and autonomy, and countries in the East struggling more with maintaining a sense of community. Regardless, LTCs that have implemented these changes have had success and boast much higher quality of life for residents and higher satisfaction among staff.

CONCLUSION

The use of LTC facilities is only expected to continue to grow in the future. Globally, many nations have already implemented strategies to fund and develop these facilities, however, many are still lacking adequate funding strategies or are in their infancy stages of development. Regardless