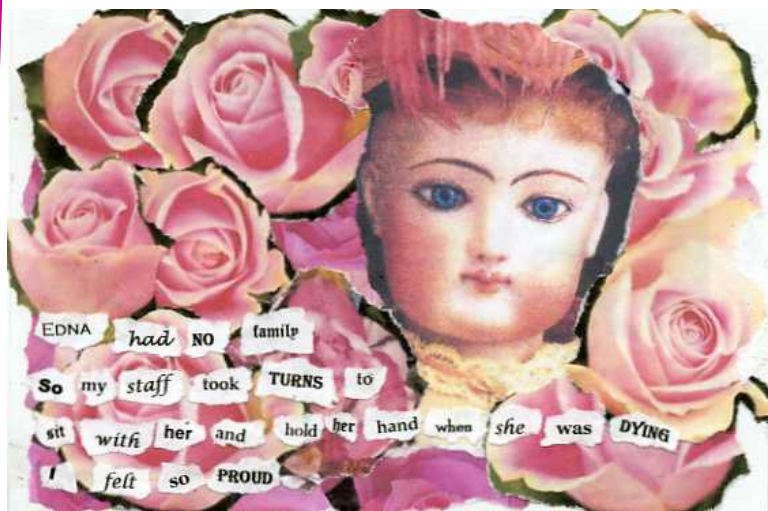


Every Day Angels

A project celebrating the achievements of staff working in aged care services



How to participate: To participate you need to order an Everyday Angels Postcard. Use the blank side of the postcard to share the story of something that staff working in aged care have achieved. You can write a story, draw a picture, make a collage, anything you like. Then post the card back to the research team - the address and stamp are provided. The research team will be accepting postcards until December 2009. If you would like to have a look at what others are celebrating then go to our website: www.everydayangels.org.au

Background: In 2008, a study conducted by Aged & Community Services Australia raised concerns that there is a negative community perception of aged care.¹ The study identified that there is a need for the aged care industry to promote a positive image of the good work it does. The importance of celebrating the achievements of aged care service providers was also noted by the Minister for Ageing (2007) who called for aged care services to build capacity to meet the growing need for their services by fostering and rewarding the achievements of their staff.²

Project aim & method: The aim of the project is to celebrate the achievements of staff working in aged care services in Victoria. To achieve this aim 4000 blank postcards have been distributed across Victoria. The community is invited to use the blank postcard to share a story of something achieved by an aged care service provider. The postcards will be analysed to identify themes and promote the good work that happens everyday in aged care.

Who can participate: Anyone can participate. service providers can share their own achievements or invite their workplace to contribute. Older people may want to share the story of care that they have received. Community members may choose to participate to share stories about care a family member or friend has received. Aged care services can include: home care, day care, aged care assessment and rehabilitation, independent living units, hostels and nursing homes etc. You don't need to identify the people or places involved. The achievements can include anything positive whether it is big or small

To order a free postcard pack contact The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society on - 03 9285 5297 or email c.barrett@latrobe.edu.au



Funding has been provided by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust.

The Project team

Dr Catherine Barrett & Associate Professor Anne Mitchell: the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs). Dr Jan Allen: The Melbourne Institute of Experiential and Creative Arts Therapy (www.miecat.org.au). Associate Professor Suzanne McLaren: The University of Ballarat www.ballarat.edu.au) and Dr Jean Tinney: The National Ageing Research Institute (www.mednwh.unimelb.edu.au).



Footnote:

1. Aged & Community Services Australia (2008). Where would we be without them? Research findings on the aged and community care industry image project
2. Pyne, C. (2007) Minister for Ageing. Speech: Ministers awards for excellence in aged care. Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra.