

# PsychAGE News

Information and commentary about older adult and carer wellbeing

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Today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. I thought this, a focus on older adult rights and wellbeing, was a fitting time to acknowledge recent advances in reviewing quality for aged care services.

Transition toward a brand new set of quality standards, which bring four different aged care standards together under the one 'roof', is expected to commence in July. Attached is the final draft of the Aged Care Quality Standards and you can click [here](#) for more information.

So what has this also got to do with mental health?

I'm pretty smitten with the first standard in the draft document which is about consumer dignity and choice. I particularly like point 1.4, "Each consumer is supported to take risks to enable them to live the best life they can."

Too many times I have heard older adults, especially in residential care, lament about an over protective environment and the whittling affect this has on their spunk for life. Of course, it will be interesting to see how the rhetoric plays out in action but the fact that a General Manager of Resident Services excitedly told me about these Standards—how pleased she was to see such a client centred approach—has me feeling more than just a little bit hopeful.

Other updates:

Advocacy letter re Medicare injustice now live on AASWSA site [here](#).

Podcast conversation with Vittorio Cintio, social work head of Blue Mountains hospital [here](#).



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