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Exploring the concept of 'Dignity of Risk'

Marta Woolford: PhD Candidate

Cassi de Lacy-Vawdon: Research Officer

Joseph Ibrahim: PhD Main Supervisor

Lyndal Bugeja: PhD Supervisor

Carolina Weller: PhD Supervisor



GROUP
OF EIGHT
AUSTRALIA



Dignity of Risk Research Project

**AIM:**

To determine policy and decision-makers perceptions of 'Dignity of Risk' as it applies to vulnerable older persons living in residential aged care services

WHEN:

July - August 2016 and February 2017

WHO:

Fourteen senior policy makers and individuals' directly involved as surrogate decision-makers for person's lifestyle/care needs, with two or more years' experience working in the aged care or disability sectors

The Dignity of Risk

“Dignity of risk is the principle of allowing an individual the dignity afforded by risk-taking, with subsequent enhancement of personal growth and quality of life” [1]

Positive risk-taking

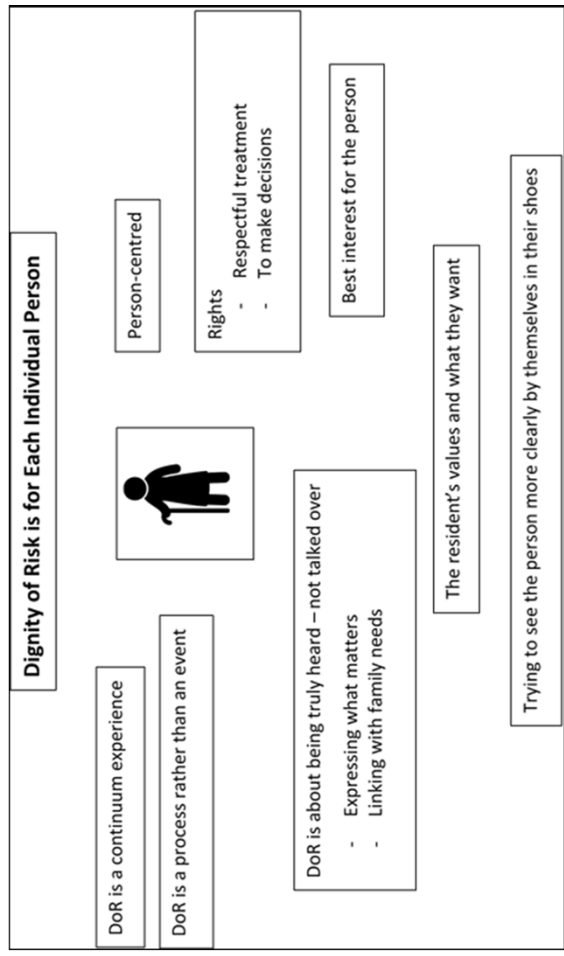
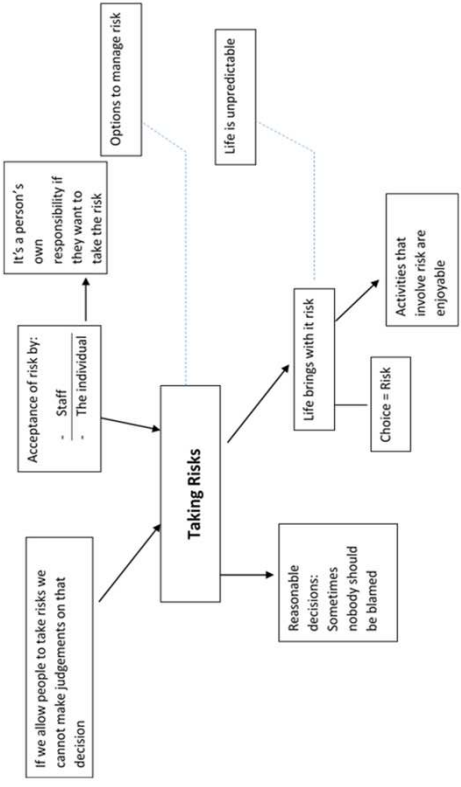
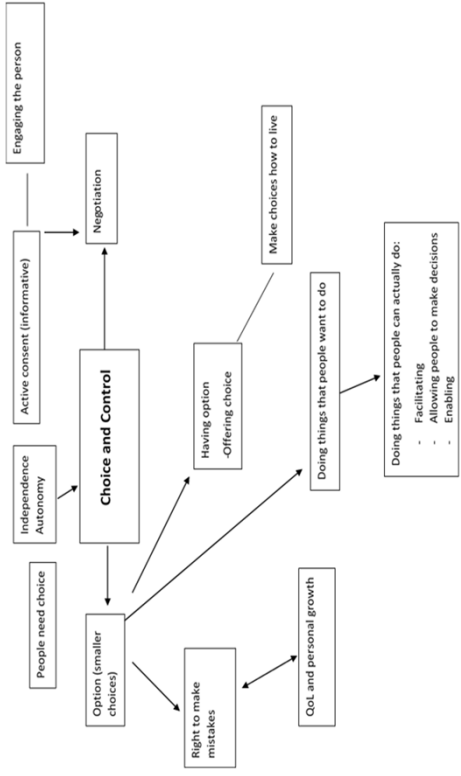
- Improved autonomy
- Improves social interaction
- Improves health
- Live independently
- Construct their lives in accordance with their values and personality.
- Self-determination and feelings of worth

Over-protection

- Patronised
- Smothers the person
- Remove hopes
- Diminishes the person
- Prevent individuals reaching potential

Life Right Risk

person, rights, risk, autonomy, freedom, control, choose, respectful, wishes, not, human, enjoyment, courageous, risks, consultation, independence, unaccounted, measure, values, important, enjoy, conversations, recognising, treatment, self, confidence, involves, choice, experience, centered, mistakes, determination, relationships, alternatives, acknowledgement, live, control, choose, human, respectful, wishes, not, risks, enjoyment, courageous, risks, consultation, independence, unaccounted, measure, values, important, enjoy, conversations, recognising, treatment, self, confidence, involves, choice, experience, centered

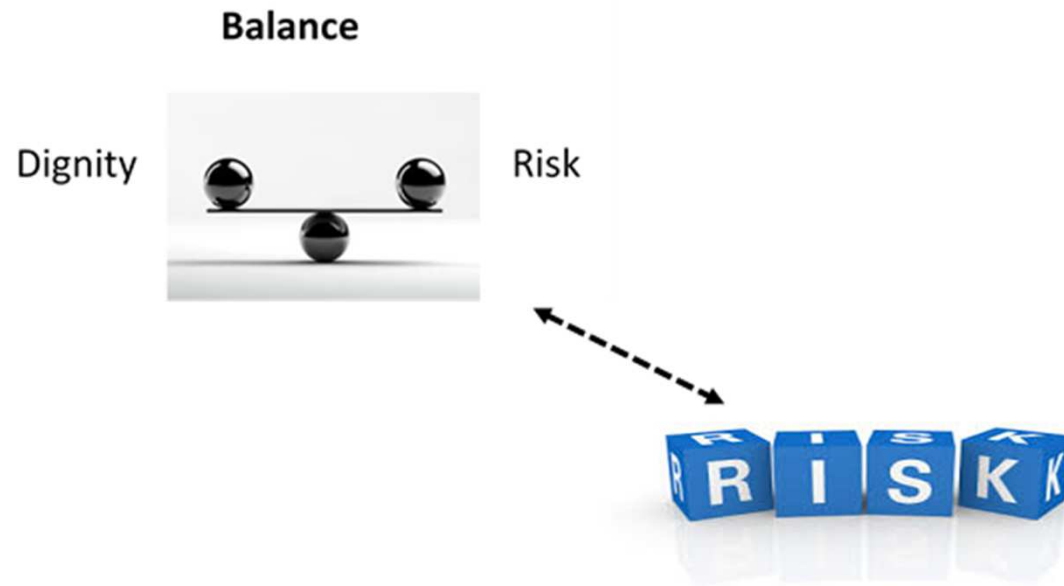


Disconnection Between Theory and Practice

“So, it’s a bit of a tricky one because I think the issue with Dignity of Risk is often the ethos or the stated principle doesn’t often match the reality of what happens”

“we should be giving them as much freedom as is possible without them being at risk” . Ann.

The word "RISK" is displayed in a 3D perspective using four blue, cube-shaped blocks. Each block has a white letter on its top face: 'R', 'I', 'S', and 'K'. The blocks are arranged in a horizontal line and cast soft shadows on the white surface below them.



"I guess with the work that we do and when we are actively trying to consider Dignity of Risk we are weighing up rights versus risks"

“Dignity of Risk [does not] mean that in all circumstances we allow people to exercise choice because that’s part of maintaining dignity in all circumstances. So as responsible adults we say, we understand that certain stages in life will restrict choice if people aren’t in a position to exercise some kind of judgement that would avert harm”



Situational:

- Cognitive ability
- Individual capacity
- Has the required support and monitoring
- Need good quality of staff and good staffing levels
- Risk must be supervised
- Impact on others
- Team effort
- Needs of family
- Stage of life
- Pre-arranged
- How time intensive the choices are
- Based on safety and protection
- Choices need to fit into an acceptable safety framework
- Has to be reasonable
- Within legal boundaries
- Based on physical safety

“when frontline staff need to respect peoples Dignity of Risk that involves them taking on some risk professionally, to give an older person a degree of risk, if something goes wrong they are taking on that risk”



“So it is interesting if the calculus of determining Dignity of Risk implicates my ability as a healthcare provider to shoulder responsibility”

“The easiest way is to shove the responsibility onto somebody else”

Balance



Dignity

Risk



R I S K



Transfer risk



Absorb risk

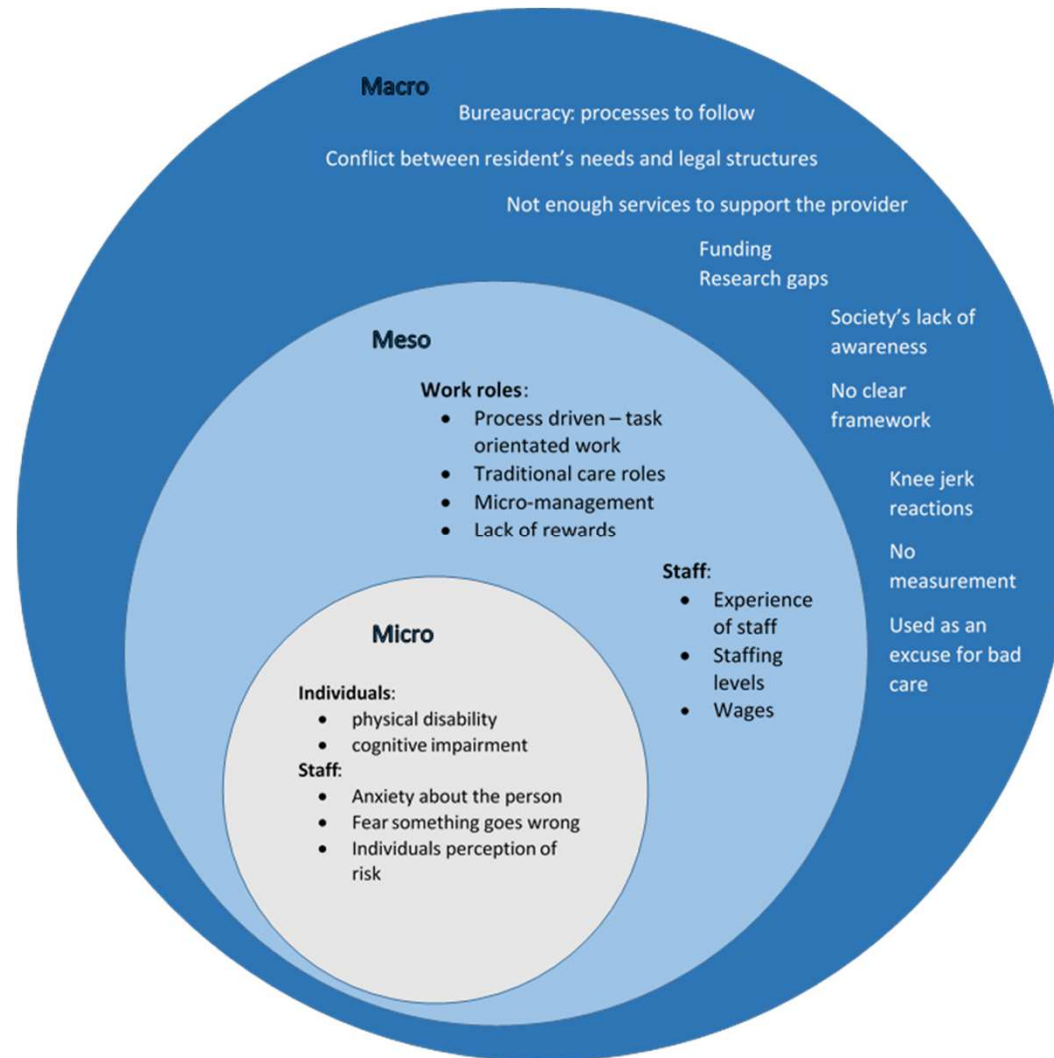
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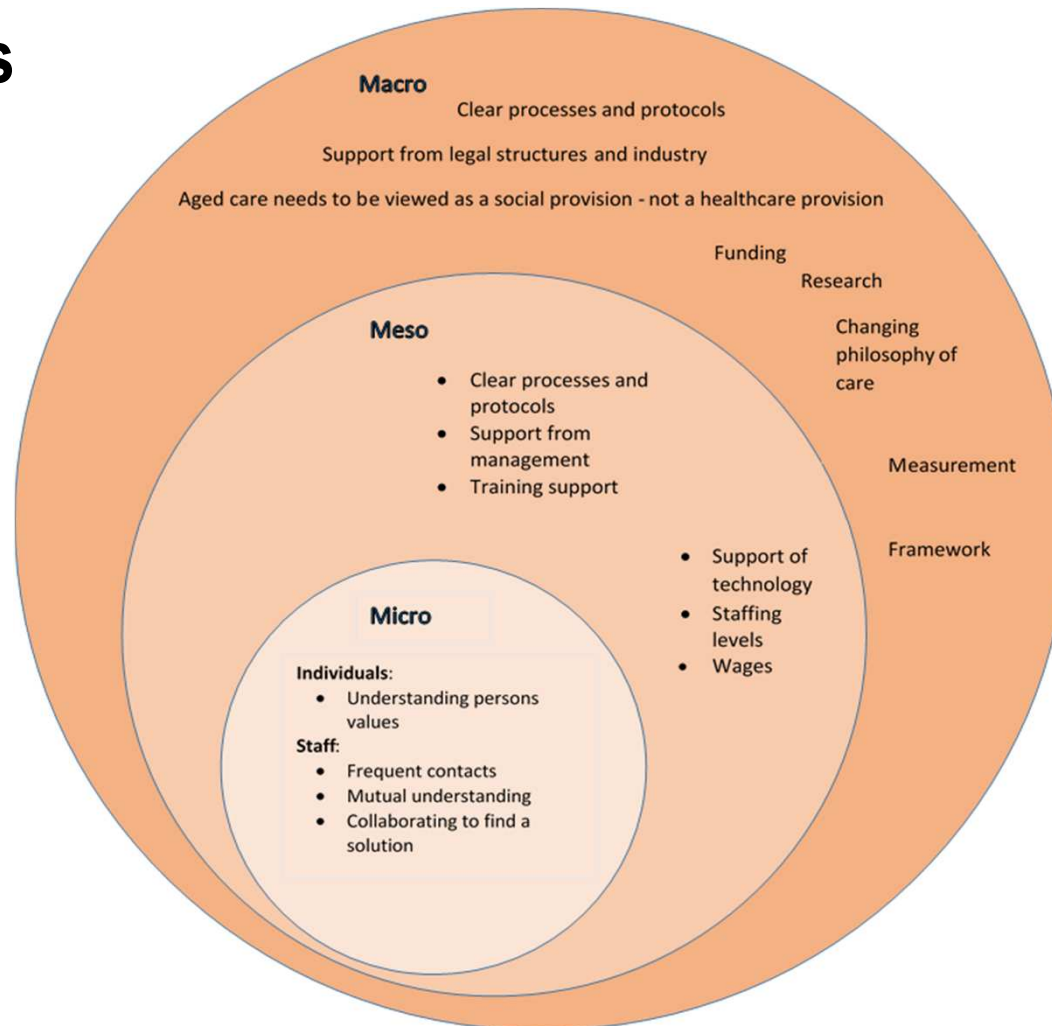
Discussion

What are the facilitators and barriers?

Barriers



Facilitators



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