

# Addressing Unwanted Sexual Behaviour in Residential Aged Care Services

**Friday 14 July 2023**

**“The knowledge that I gained will assist me better to support staff at a RACF. Staff who attended from Dementia Support Australia recommend this program”**

**DEMENTIA SUPPORT AUSTRALIA**

**Australia’s Residential Aged Care Services have come under increased scrutiny due to high profile reports of resident mistreatment, typically physical abuse or neglect.**

The number of alleged or suspected unlawful sexual contact of residents in Australia, reported to the regulator the **Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission** continues to rise. Older people and especially those with dementia living in residential aged care facilities are a particularly vulnerable population for sexual assault. This is due to multiple physical, psychological, cognitive and health related issues as well as co-housing of residents.

The workshop explores what can be done to better enable preventing and managing unwanted sexual behaviour in RACS. We examine the prevailing negative sexual stereotypes of older people, their greater dependency on others, the challenges facing staff members in reporting, detecting, and preventing incidents.

Presented by the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC), La Trobe University, this interactive workshop is facilitated by Professor Joseph Ibrahim with other experts and experienced leaders in the field of aged care practice and research. It is designed for aged care managers and nursing staff. An electronic workshop information pack is included in the registration fee.

## FACE-TO-FACE WORKSHOP

### WHEN

Friday 14 July 2023  
9:00am – 4:30pm

### WHERE

La Trobe University  
City Campus  
360 Collins Street,  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
Level 2, Room 2.11

### COST

\$484 incl. GST

*Catered function.*

### ENQUIRIES

Daisy Smith by email  
[daisy.smith@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:daisy.smith@latrobe.edu.au)

**Online payment and registration**

[https://pay.latrobe.edu.au/LTUEv/booking?e=SHE\\_EV394](https://pay.latrobe.edu.au/LTUEv/booking?e=SHE_EV394)

Content warning: discussion of sexual assault may be triggering for some people. If you require support, please contact the Sexual Assault Crisis Line on 1800 806 292, Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Wellways’ Helpline on 1300 111 500.

**Terms and Conditions:** Refunds will not be given if cancellations are advised less than seven days prior to the event. Please note, a colleague is always welcome to attend in your place. Refund requests need to be received in writing [daisy.smith@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:daisy.smith@latrobe.edu.au). Registration is finalised once you receive a registration confirmation email from the administrator. Finance office use only WBS 4.0101.29.25, ACEBAC cost centre 1346. GL Account 401356 Conference Revenue.

## Program

Time	Duration	Item	Person
0845 h	15	Arrive and settle in	
0900 h	30	Overview of seminar and dilemmas in managing unwanted sexual behaviour in Residential Aged Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Icebreaker task</li> </ul>	<i>Prof Joseph Ibrahim &amp; Ms Daisy Smith</i>
0930 h	60	Sexual expression and intimacy in Residential Aged Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small group work</li> </ul>	<i>Dr Linda McAuliffe</i>
1030 h	20	Debate: are sex robots the answer to intimacy?	<i>Prof Joseph Ibrahim &amp; Ms Daisy Smith</i>
1050 h	25	Morning Tea and Refreshment Break	
1115 h	60	Foundation knowledge of unwanted sexual behaviour in Residential Aged Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four core topics 10 minutes each &amp; 5 minutes of questions between each topic</li> </ul>	<i>Prof Joseph Ibrahim &amp; Ms Daisy Smith</i>
1215 h	45	Common scenarios with managing & preventing unwanted sexual behaviour in RACS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small group work solving a scenario</li> </ul>	<i>Prof Joseph Ibrahim, Ms Daisy Smith, Ms Amelia Grossi</i>
1300 h	30	Lunch and networking opportunities	
1330 h	45	Challenges with cognitively impaired residents & issues of capacity & consent to sexual activity	<i>Dr Supriya Rama Krishnan</i>
1415 h	30	The role of police: how to report a criminal incident to the police and what to expect?	<i>Detective Sergeant Ben Boulton</i>
1445 h	30	The role of the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)	<i>Ms Tessa Terlouw</i>
1515 h	30	Lessons from investigating incidents of unwanted sexual behaviour and SIRS documentation.	<i>Associate Professor Lisa Clinnick</i>
1545 h	30	Sharing our experiences and a quick refresher of learning: mini quiz	<i>Prof Joseph Ibrahim</i>
1615 h	15	Wrap-up and Evaluation	<i>Ms Daisy Smith</i>
1630 h	-	Close	

## Individual session details

<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p><i>Professor Joseph Ibrahim &amp; Ms Daisy Smith, ACEBAC La Trobe University</i></p> <p>Meet &amp; greet the seminar team and recap the aim of the seminar. Icebreaker task to understand who we all are and what we are trying to achieve in today's session.</p>
<p><b>Sexual expression &amp; intimacy in Residential Aged Care</b></p>	<p><i>Dr Linda McAuliffe, ACEBAC La Trobe University</i></p> <p>Understanding the sexual needs of older adults living in aged care and how RACS can equip themselves to join the sexual revolution. A small group activity will be part of this presentation.</p>
<p><b>Debate: Are sex robots the answer to sexual intimacy?</b></p>	<p><i>Professor Joseph Ibrahim &amp; Ms Daisy Smith</i></p> <p>Would sex robots help promote sexual expression of residents? Would they help manage exhibitors of unwanted sexual behaviours in RACS? Or would they create more ethical issues? A group activity designed to explore how we can promote resident's sexual autonomy whilst protecting others from unwanted sexual behaviour.</p>
<p><b>Foundational knowledge of unwanted sexual behaviour in Residential Aged Care</b></p>	<p><i>Professor Joseph Ibrahim &amp; Ms Daisy Smith</i></p> <p>Four core topics are addressed spending about 10 minutes didactic teaching and 5 minutes questions.</p>
<p><b>Common scenarios when managing &amp; preventing unwanted sexual behaviour in RACS</b></p>	<p><i>Professor Joseph Ibrahim, Ms Daisy Smith &amp; Ms Amelia Grossi</i></p> <p>This is an interactive component aimed to critically analyse and workshop two common scenarios in RACS. The aim of this is to equip the audience with issues they'll likely face and discuss strategies for resolution.</p>
<p><b>Challenges with cognitive impaired residents &amp; issues of capacity &amp; consent to sexual activity</b></p>	<p><i>Dr Supriya Rama Krishnan, Geriatrician Ballarat Health Services</i></p> <p>How do we assess the cognition? How do we assess capacity? How do we assess capacity in persons with cognitive impairment to engage or decline participation in sexual activity?</p>
<p><b>The role of police: how to report a criminal incident to the police and what to expect?</b></p>	<p><i>Senior Sergeant Ben Boulton, Sexual Offences &amp; Child Abuse Investigation Team</i></p> <p>What is reportable to the police, and what information should staff inform the police about when managing an incident of unlawful sexual behaviour?</p>
<p><b>The role of the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)</b></p>	<p><i>Ms Tessa Terlouw, Social Worker, Educator, &amp; Counsellor at CASA House</i></p> <p>What services do CASA provide for survivors of sexual assault and how else can CASA help you manage an incident that occurs in your facility?</p>
<p><b>Lessons from investigating incidents of unwanted sexual behaviour and SIRS documentation.</b></p>	<p><i>Associate Professor Lisa Clinnick, Manager PSRACS Performance and Operations Team</i></p> <p>Lessons from investigating incidents of unwanted sexual behaviour, incident reporting, and documentation to the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS).</p>
<p><b>Sharing our experiences and a quick refresher of learning: a mini quiz</b></p>	<p><i>Professor Joseph Ibrahim</i></p> <p>A wrap up of the days learning, random questions, and a reflection with a quiz.</p>

## Biographies

### *Professor Joseph Ibrahim*

Joseph is the inaugural and current editor of the Residential Aged Care Communiqué. Joseph's research is aimed at protecting residents from abuse and poor practices and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practiced. This work has informed the Australian Law Reform Commission into Elder Abuse, the Commonwealth Senate, House of Representatives Inquiries, the Royal Commission into Aged Care and the United Nations.

### *Ms Daisy Smith*

Daisy is a Research Officer at ACEBAC, La Trobe University. Daisy has worked in the field of sexual violence against residential aged care residents since 2015. Daisy contributed to the first Australian e-training specifically designed to prevent unwanted sexual behaviour in RACS and was also involved in the development of the sexual violence training for health practitioners. Daisy has contributed to multiple national inquiries regarding the rights of older persons and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Older Person (2021) and the United Nations calls for contributions of older persons deprived of liberty (2022). Daisy attended as an expert witness at the House of Representatives inquiry into family, domestic, and sexual violence in October 2020.

### *Dr Linda McAuliffe*

Linda is a Research Fellow with the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC), La Trobe University. She is also a registered psychologist. Her research interests include sexuality in later life; dementia; and the psychosocial health of older adults and their family caregivers. Over the past decade, Linda has worked on projects focused on improving the lives of older adults living in RAC. This has included investigating policies and practices regarding sexuality and sexual health in RACS.

### *Dr Supriya Rama Krishnan*

Supriya is a consultant geriatrician and a member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Supriya completed twelve months of training in Clinical Forensic Medicine and is completing her Masters in Forensic Medicine. Supriya has also completed research exploring the nature of older alleged offenders of violent crimes. Regular attendance at professional development courses and conferences related to geriatric medicine, behavioural sciences, and cognition and capacity assessments.

### *Detective Sergeant Ben Boulton*

Ben joined Victoria Police in 1990 and has over 32 years of service including investigation of sexual offences and child abuse during that time. He is based in Melbourne with Sexual Offences & Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT), since 2018 as a supervising investigator.

### *Ms Tessa Terlouw*

Tessa Terlouw is a social worker, educator and counsellor with a passion for promoting social justice and improving system responses for victim-survivors of sexual violence. As the program leader for training, education and quality improvement at CASA House, Tessa is dedicated to developing training for a wide range of audiences, ensuring high quality service provision and providing consultation on CASA House's trauma informed, intersectional feminist approach. Her extensive experience in direct service provision, crisis response and vocational training provides a well-rounded perspective to her work and in-depth knowledge of the sexual assault services sector.

### *Associate Professor Lisa Clinnick*

Lisa is the manager PSRACS Performance and Operations Team at the Department of Health. Lisa is an experienced Senior Nurse Manager and Researcher with a demonstrated history of working in the public healthcare sector and higher education industry. Skilled in Nursing Management, Nursing Education (Gerontological Nursing, Medical Care, Health Care Ethics and Sociology) Health research, Acute Care, and Care of the Older Person. Lisa has a Doctor of Nursing and Master of Clinical Nursing as well as a Master of Business Administration (MBA) majoring in Innovation from Deakin University.

### *Ms Amelia Grossi*

Amelia graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Biomedical Science in 2022. Amelia has worked as a Research Assistant investigating issues affecting the quality of life of older people in aged care. She is currently studying the Doctor of Medicine at the University of Melbourne.