Collaboration to Improve Health and Justice Outcomes for Older People

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Key questions (1)

How can we identify and support the strengths/capabilities of older people and their kin and care networks?

- Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Dignity in Care for People with Dementia, 2016
  - priority should be given to improving interventions that “increase the self-determination and independence of the person with dementia” (p65)
  - health and aged care professionals should give person with dementia and family/carers information about “sources of financial and legal advice and advocacy” (Guideline 6)
How do we balance respect for the autonomy of older persons with protection of older people who are vulnerable?

- ALRC Report on Elder Abuse, 2017
  - “Older people, like most adults, prize their freedom and independence, and do not wish to be treated like children or sheltered from all risk. The autonomy of older people should not be afforded less respect than the autonomy of others. However, in limited cases, where there is particularly serious abuse of vulnerable people, protection should be given additional weight.” (p 21)
What strategies for health-legal collaboration can help practitioners meet the needs of older people – acute and preventive?

- Law Council of Australia, Justice Project, 2017
  - “Joined-up services produce better outcomes for older people in addressing their legal problems...” (p 4)
- HJPs “are considered especially beneficial for older persons” (p 30)
Problem noticing; screening tools, interviewing skills

Capacity assessment, supported DM, specific topics (abuse, dementia)

Outreach clinics with health & legal expertise; student involvement

General (wills, EPOAs); specialist (elder abuse, palliative care)

Thinking beyond this event...

How can we – as a community of people interested in **collaboration and partnerships to serve older people** – build connections beyond this conference?