

Clients on Film – Information Sheet

The project was originally conceived in 2010. The idea was to produce a series of short films to be shown at the Australian Meals on Wheels Association National Conference in Melbourne in September 2011 and then have them packaged into a DVD for training purposes with the aged care sector. Funding came via the Victorian Government through the Home and Community Care Program. Due to the limited budget clients had to be sourced from one municipality. It is hoped to extend the scope of the project in the future and produce another DVD featuring clients from rural backgrounds and younger people with disabilities who also receive HACC services.

The main purpose of the films (this copy appears on back cover of DVD)

When does someone stop being identified by their profession, achievements and passions?

Many prejudices and preconceptions are attached to the term 'elderly'. These short films challenge ageism; we see each participant as they see themselves. They help us question our own stereotypical ideas about older people or those routinely referred to in the aged sector as 'clients'.

Award winning film maker Polly Watkins (Vietnam Nurses – 2005, Liquid Stone, Unlocking Gaudi's Secrets – 2009 and Rollerboy - 2011) demonstrates her skill at capturing small but profound moments. The films are intimate, but never intrusive. Bruce, Ray, Margaret, Nora, Mario, Thelma and Bernie all offer us a glimpse into their lives.

Each film runs between five and six minutes and can be shown individually or as a collective. Ideal for professional development and training of staff and volunteers in any sector involved with older people or for educational purposes for both secondary and tertiary students.

Participants are Meals on Wheels 'clients' in inner city Melbourne. However, their stories are universal and remind us that there is no such thing as an ordinary life.

Credits

Director/Producer Polly Watkins

Camera/Sound Chloe Hughes
Editors Simon Wright and Rob Buttery
Music Composer Nelson Mathews
Sound Editor/Mix Livia Ruzic

Original Concept Nelson Mathews

World War II images courtesy
National Archives Records Administration (NARA)

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