

Special Issue

Service Preferences and Quality of Life for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

Message from the Guest Editors

The move to individualised funding and more choice and control over services and support has been a notable policy shift in recent years, for both older adults and people with disabilities. Both populations often rely on family carers to support service choices, though information on service quality to facilitate decision making is not always available or in easily accessible formats for them. Over-relying on internet-based resources in particular can disadvantage older adults and people with intellectual disabilities. Evidence is needed on consumers' services preferences, how best to support choice and decision making, and on the measurement of outcomes that are most important and meaningful to older adults and adults with disabilities. One such outcome is quality of life. That older adults and people with disabilities experience a good quality of life has been recognised as a central tenet of service provision to these populations, yet more evidence is required on what services and supports improve quality of life and how quality of life is measured in a way that is meaningful to older adults and adults with disabilities themselves.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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