Transitioning people with intellectual disabilities into aged care

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Ageing carer’s concerns:

- I am ageing and have ageing care needs
- My daughter is ageing and has ageing care needs
- What happens to her when I am no longer able to care?
Ageing with disability

The 1960s brought large scale restructuring of human services in Australia

- Deinstitutionalisation
- Social integration and social inclusion
- Opportunities for employment and community participation
People with intellectual disabilities experience ageing issues earlier than other people.

People under 65 with intellectual disability are usually considered unsuitable for residential aged care.
Managing the transition: a pilot study

Disability Sector (Greenacres)

Aged Care Sector (IRT)
Greenacres Retirement Options Program (GRO)

- Transition from work to GRO
- Managing the balance between disability and ageing needs
Transition pilot study: Greenacres’ GRO clients into an IRT day service program

Clients with intellectual disability

1. Ageing carers’ burdens
2. Isolation and loneliness
3. Challenging behaviours and conflict with existing residents
4. Problems of collaboration in managing transitioning into aged care
Transition pilot study:

IRT planned transitions

1. Providing disability **day service** programs
2. Providing **respite** to build trusting relationships
3. Providing **cluster** residential options to encourage socialisation for permanent placements
Ongoing research...

✓ Stakeholder analysis – ‘pressure points’...

✓ Transitioning practices...

✓ Policy, funding and collaboration improvements
A new story, a new vision... 
a new reality begins