



PHOTOVOICE AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE

An action research project by
Jewish Care Melbourne





Overview:

- Who are Jewish Care?
- What is Photovoice?
- Why did we want to use Photovoice?
- What have we learnt from this project?
- Where to from here?





Who are Jewish Care?

- Community support organisation
- Over 50 years of working with people with a disability
- Currently supporting over 200 people and their families
- Supports offered include: supported accommodation services, individualised support, and a variety of respite options





What is Photovoice?

- Photovoice is a process that enables people to identify, represent, and enhance their community through a photographic medium.
- It involves placing cameras in the hands of people who act as recorders to document and potentially change events in their own communities.
- It uses the visual image and accompanying stories to provide evidence and to promote a participatory means of sharing ideas and experience



What did we want to do?

- There had been an increase in behaviours of concern for two residents of a community residential unit and staff sought an appropriate intervention;
- It was hypothesised that taking photos would be a positive response to negative behaviours;
- Photos could form the basis for debriefing and discussion around the behaviour and reducing the likelihood of further behaviours being displayed;
- It was intended that there would be a reduction in behaviours of concern and the development of better targeted positive behaviour support strategies.



Aims:

- To gain a better understanding of the use of Photovoice;
- To investigate the potential of client monitored behaviour recording;
- To better identify and define behaviour patterns, leading to better behaviour support plans and training for staff in positive approaches;
- To prevent the need for use of chemical restraints;
- To reduce behaviours of concern;
- To build greater staff understanding of behaviours and therefore better target support



Participants:

- Residents of the community residential unit:
 - A 58 year old male with Down syndrome and behaviours consistent with early onset dementia;
 - 51 year old female with mild intellectual disability, depression and anxiety.
- A staffing team of four permanent staff:
 - All staff have a strong theoretical knowledge of behaviours of concern and restrictive interventions.
 - One staff member is rostered on each shift and no sleepover support is provided.

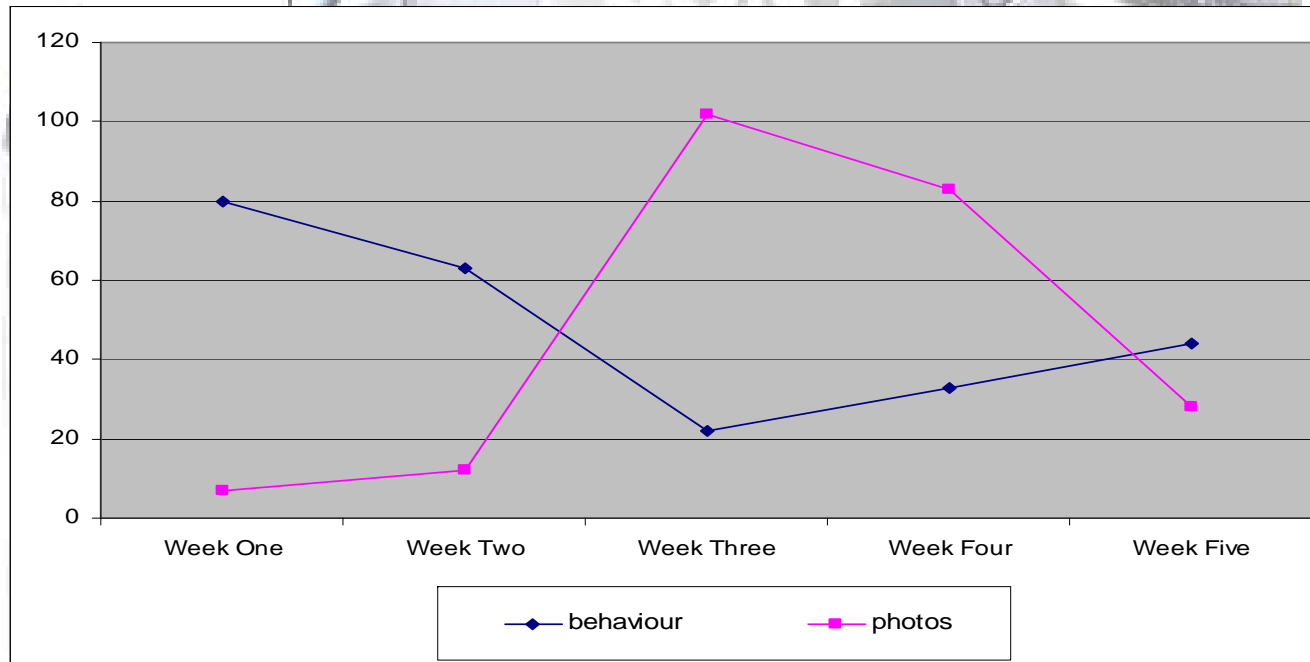


What did we do?

- Two digital cameras were purchased and residents and staff were trained in their use;
- Staff completed knowledge and attitudinal surveys, and compiled a list of the most frequently occurring behaviours of concern;
- Staff commenced daily recording on identified behaviours;
- The cameras were given to the two residents who display behaviours identified and were supported and encouraged to use them. The residents chose where to keep the cameras and when to use them.
- Staff offered time each day to sit with the residents and discuss the photographs they took and why;
- Staff support was faded out over the intervention with high levels of physical and verbal support offered in week one to constant verbal prompting and encouragement in week three and no support in week five.



What did we find?



A significant negative correlation was found between photos taken and behaviour recorded. The strength of this result suggests that the increased support and photographic activity can lead to a reduction in behaviours of concern being displayed.



Lessons learnt:

- Results suggest that Photovoice may be a useful tool in reducing behaviours of concern;
- Recorded frequency of behaviour was different to that expected by staff;
- When determining a behaviour of concern service user input must be sought to find out which behaviours are concerning to them;
- Photovoice/photography can be used in a number of ways and in this case have been adopted for positive experiences in a persons life;
- Photographs are typically a way of recording times a person wishes to remember and reflect on, photographing a stressful situation may have posed a barrier to this study;
- Behaviour patterns were identified for each client and resources and activity scheduling are being allocated to best support them;
- Use of cameras and photos has led staff to have a better understanding of clients through longer and more meaningful conversations;
- That resident activity does not always equate to engagement.



Future directions:

- Refine the organisational definition of ‘behaviours of concern’;
- Work with residents to develop a wider range of personal interests;
- Implement further staff development and training in the practical application of positive behaviour support;
- Review Active Support activity schedules to reduce opportunities for inappropriate client interaction through modification of daily routines.



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