Opening Doors: A Partnership Model for Social Inclusion.

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Why do we need to open doors?

- Changing demographics
- Earlier diagnosis
- Different expectations for support and care
- Social isolation
- Consider the ‘baby boomers’
How our model started:

We created a new Art therapy program within Research and Consultancy in 2008 and decided to pilot a range of options within the new program.
Who benefits from our program?

- Individual art sessions at home or in care facilities
- A couples program using art for fun and communication
- Group art sessions in Day Centres or in care facilities
- Staff training in Art and Creativity
Reminiscence in a group session
‘I haven’t picked up a paint brush for years!’
Moving towards a model of social inclusion...

We begin to hear about a new dementia specific Art Gallery access program – ‘Meet me at Moma’s’ in New York
• This concept begins to spread ....
• The National Gallery in Canberra runs and researches their own program and are keen to share their experiences
• We apply for funding and receive a grant from the Dept. of Health and Ageing ‘Dementia Initiatives’
Introducing:

‘Moments with McCubbin’
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Alzheimer’s Australia WA teams up with the Art Gallery of WA to create:

• A program consisting of three guided art tours, one ‘touch’ tour and one art session
• For three different groups of people living with dementia-
Over 200 individual visits ….

- People with dementia living in residential care
- People with dementia attending Day Centres
- and for couples /individuals living at home

by 60 people living with dementia….
Let the adventure begin!
THE MODEL

- Identify a venue to partner
- Find a ‘dementia champion’
- Educate staff
- Pilot
The importance of education

Education is offered over two sessions:
1. Introduction/overview of dementia and the impact on communication and behaviour

2. The application of knowledge, and role play, for staff involved.
Assistance for staff

• Will include a practical ‘on the job’ opportunity
• Feedback and debriefing over a period of time
• Ongoing contact with the key person
Possible venues

- The Zoo
- Large and local Museums
- The National Trust
- Sporting venues
- Wildlife parks
- Aquariums
- Theatres/performance venues
- The Circus
- Large and small Art Galleries, craftworks etc.
Outcomes from Art program

Extremely positive for all involved:

- Stimulation
- Social inclusion
- Reminiscence
- Friendship
- Enjoyment of Gallery experience
- Rediscovery of intellect and art appreciation
Comments by guides

- Privilege
- Heartening
- Challenging
- Humbling
- Emotional
- Enlightening
- Rewarding
- Gob smacking
Comments by participants

- I am so sad it’s the last day
- It’s got off with a roaring start!
- Different eyes see different things
- Good to keep the grey matter working
- Variety is the spice of life
Comments by care partners

• Every morning my wife asks ‘are we going to the Gallery today?’
• ‘I would like to bring to your attention how much I felt it helped, supported and encouraged L. to engage with something positive and creative’
Where to from here?

Inspired by John Zeisel’s (USA) Artz program-
  • Our ‘Artistic Adventures’ program, ongoing
  • Can the Zoo offer short guided visits?
  • We have contact with Theatres for musicals, performance and dance
  • We are liaising with a new local museum for reminiscence tours
  • And with the Historical society for places of interest to visit
What opportunities do you have?
“It has opened up a whole new world to me”