

# Ethics of care : Video 5

## Transcript

- Grief, loss, bereavement. They're the things that are not handled or covered well in courses. The people attend before they come here as staff. People think of bereavement of somebody dying but it's more than that. It's the loss of your independence. It's the loss of not being regimented. It's the loss of all the things around you that mean so much to you.
- There's a huge loss of independence. There's grieving for the life before. There's grieving for the loss of personal items. Things that have been really important to them for so long.
- I've lost my books because there was no where to put them. So I had to choose which were the precious ones and the others have gone. And so often you think you hear something and you think yeah I must look that up but the book's not there.
- And just to be able to do small things that they did or meet with people. They've lost all that and they feel completely devastated by it. Even the ones that have dementia that don't recognize that they do feel that huge loss. It's massive and it's a loss for the families too because the families entrust you with their loved ones and for them to give up often the care of their loved one, that they may have been caring for for years at home and suddenly they're in a care facility and they've given up their right, virtually to provide that care. They need to be able to have staff there, know that their loved one's cared for in the manner in which they've been doing for years in some cases.
- When Eric died, the day after he died I woke up crying and one of the staff said to me "Now stop that, Eric wouldn't want you to be doing that." and I said "I'm not getting up today." And I didn't but it was not what I was supposed to be doing. People did pop in but they didn't quite know what to do with me.
- It's a huge time of loss not just the independence, the physical part but the emotional part, the friends, the cultural part if they've come from home and they're of a different nationality and suddenly we're asking them to eat Aussie food for example. All those things are very, very, just devastating for them when they first come in. So it's for us to try to fill that gap for them.
- Our community has an enormous fear of death. The only way out of here is to die, really. When I first came here if anybody died nobody spoke about the person. No one was told. Staff would come in for their next shift and would go into the room and find that the person has gone. In the dining room the curtains are pulled across the dining room and the person is wheeled out the back door. My belief is that you come in the front door. You should go out through the front door. And some facilities actually make an announcement that someone has died and they're being wheeled out now and if you want to you can go to the door as a mark of respect as they're wheeled out. And that's what should happen.