



National Ageing Research Institute

NEGLECT

#OKorNotOK

Film plot overview:

Richard is an 83-year-old man of Anglo-Saxon background with dementia, and is deteriorating over time. He has a son in his 40s, Ian, who has agreed to care for his father at Richard's home. Richard is also visited by Faustino, a care support worker in his late 30s. Faustino observes worsening signs of neglect over a period of many months including Richard's clothes and sheets being left dirty and unchanged, and dishes left unwashed. Ian is depicted struggling and stressed by his father's worsening state. Eventually, Ian departs on holidays, leaving Richard home alone and unable to look after himself or let Faustino in.

Follow the link below to view the film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1-2uuPr4vg&feature=youtu.be>

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Sometimes families find themselves in difficult circumstances, and it's hard to know what's okay and what's not okay. Caring for someone with increasing needs due to dementia can be difficult and stressful but there are services to assist.

If you suspect someone you work with may be neglected, even if unintentionally:

1. Talk to your supervisor

- Be sure to take notes of any concerns you have, so you can be accurate.

2. In some circumstances, you should call 000

- This includes if you suspect someone is unable to take care of themselves, and is at high risk, or has been left alone.

3. Organise a family meeting and carer support

- Sometimes people who are caring for older family members or friends may not realise there are services available, or maybe be too ashamed to ask for assistance. In such cases, family meetings are important to see if there are other siblings or family members to assist, and to let the carer know of options including counselling, respite care and other carer support services to assist
- Remember that carers can experience poor mental health, can burn out and don't know how to assist a person with dementia. If we can assist people early, we can reduce the incidence of neglect.

If you need more information or would like to speak to someone about someone you care for, please call the Elder Abuse Hotline: 1800 Elder Help (1800 353 374). This number will direct you to the relevant service in your state