

Page 806: Poster

TITLE: Dying to talk: Exploring dying and death

AUTHORS: Read, S., Wiese, M.Y., Stancliffe, R.J., Jeltos, G., & Clayton, J.M.

Aims: Adults with intellectual disability (ID) often lack opportunities to discuss their end-of-life concerns and wishes, particularly regarding their own death. **Method:** Focus groups were conducted with people with ID (3 groups) and disability staff (3 groups). Audio recordings were transcribed and analysed to identify key themes, comparing the two groups on experiences, knowledge and concerns about dying and death. **Results:** Both groups reported experiencing the death of others and spoke about grief, rituals and remembrances. People with ID demonstrated limited understanding of the choices surrounding dying and death, and of the inevitability of death. People with ID wanted to talk about death. Staff had concerns about talking about death with clients, which contributed significantly to avoidance of the topic. **Conclusion:** Problems for people with ID about end-of-life knowledge, planning and self-determination provide clear evidence of the need for intervention. Disability staff may need support and training to engage in constructive and supportive conversations with clients about end of life.