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Social IT programs for the social wellbeing of home-based seniors

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Social IT Programs for the Social Wellbeing of Home-Based Seniors

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Seniors and Computers

I'm out of bed and I made it to the keyboard. What more do you want?
Community-based Care

**Strong on**

- Nutrition
- Cleanliness
- Medical
- Safety

**Weak on**

- Personal control,
- A voice in the community
- Meaningful and valued occupations,
- Social interaction through participation in their community
Increasing Isolation

• At home - decreased mobility, more difficult to get out and about
• In care – distance from family and community
• Out of touch: Families now communicating on FB, via Email
• Detrimental to health and wellbeing
• More focus on bio-medical health issues
• Also a problem for carers and families
Social computing solutions

• Young people, with similar problems, use social media to maintain social contact and stay connected with the community.

• Many seniors and their carers do not have, and cannot use, these technologies because of their age, educational opportunity, technical access, or because services are not usable by them.

• However, the potential is there! Learning new things is good for mental health.

Social Media and On-Line services Provide New Ways for Seniors and their carers (from 55 years through to 85 years) to stay connected and participate meaningfully in community events.
Programs in aged-care facilities
The in-Care Experience

- Provision of a space with computers, desks, power
- Internet Connections
- Tutors and Mentors often 1-1
- Work at the learners pace,
- Allow for reduced capabilities, physical, cognitive, understanding
- Weekly sessions
- Lots of fun and patience
The Challenge at Home - Technical

- Suitable, affordable device (computer, laptop, tablet)
- Reliable, affordable, fast enough Internet
- Learning on their device
- Learning to manage privacy and security
- Learning to do just one thing first
- Ongoing support
The Challenge at Home-Social

• Forming, joining online communities
• Finding help as needed
• Sharing pictures and experiences with friends and family
• Organizing shared social outings
• Using on-line services – Banking, Shopping, Creative Arts and Entertainment
• Self Development and Productivity - MOOCs, Blogs
Potential areas for wellbeing

• connection,
• communication
• occupation,
• self-sufficiency,
• self-worth/esteem,
• productivity,
• personal development,
• being in control,
• and enjoyment.
ICT care Packages

• Free for those who cannot afford it
• 4 stages – get a device, get the Internet, learn the basics, ongoing support
• Work within their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) (i.e know what they are able to do, adjust as they learn and gain confidence)
• Involve partners and volunteers

• Engage local organisations in on-line services for seniors
• Involve the seniors themselves and their carers
• Increased wellbeing and social inclusion known to be preventative of a range of health problems
Your ideas

?