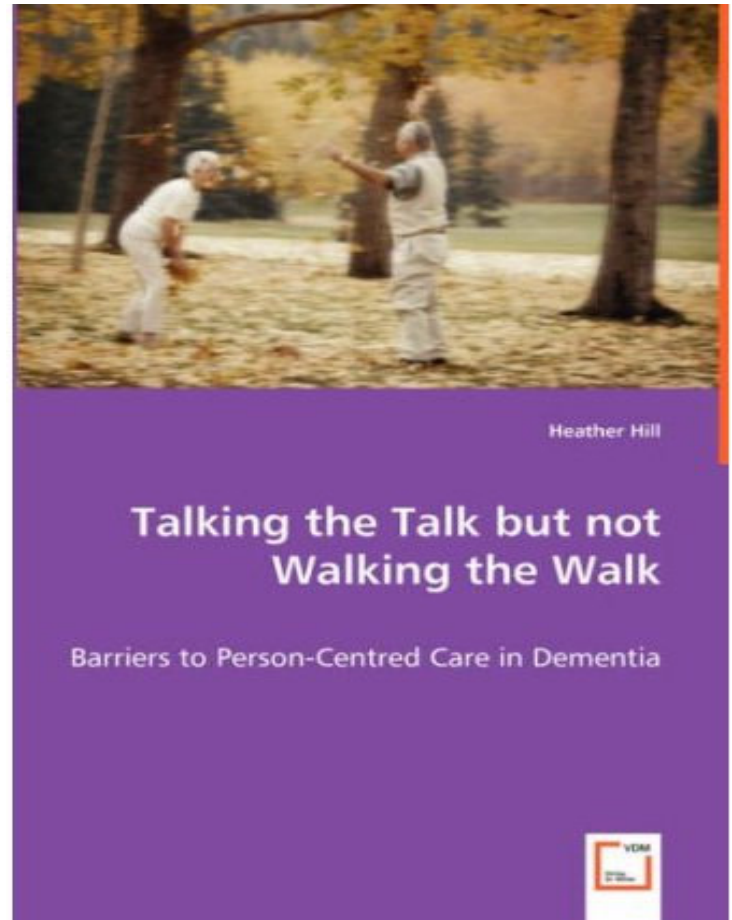


Talking the Talk but not Walking the Walk

Dr Heather Hill

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While the concept of person-centred care has been around for over 20 years and attracted much interest and enthusiasm because of its positive, humanistic approach to people with dementia, aged care facilities continue to have difficulty in implementing and maintaining person-centred practice. This book documents a research study in an aged care facility which tried to set up a person-centred program for their residents with dementia. Beginning with a discussion of the different perspectives on dementia and dementia care (biomedical, psycho-social, social constructionist), the author goes on to document the difficulties encountered by this facility. She explores the various and mutually influencing barriers to a person-centred approach – from the institution-specific issues viewed within interpersonal, environmental, and organisational frameworks, to procedural and policy issues, and finally to the barriers arising from differing value systems. This book highlights the complexity of issues which get in the way of treating people with dementia as people and should be of interest to staff and management within aged care and dementia, as well as service providers and policy makers.



About the Author

Heather Hill PhD, has worked for over 20 years as a dance therapist in the field of dementia. Inspired by the work of Kitwood and driven by her own desire to improve care, she undertook doctoral studies in person-centred care, completed in 2004. She is author of several publications on dementia and dance therapy. She now works as a lecturer at Melbourne Institute for Experiential and Creative Arts Therapy.