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Ageing and the Good Things of Life:
The Application of **Social Role Valorization** to
Supporting People as They Age



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This book has been 30 years in the making, but it is hard to ignore that as the book is issued we are in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic that worldwide has claimed over 500,000 victims, most of them elderly and a large proportion of these in congregate care facilities. Indeed, in many countries vulnerable elders in congregate settings have been confined and denied any outside contact, many of them in facilities with high infection rates (from the introduction).

In Australia, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was tasked to look at how older people are cared for and to work out what needs to change to make aged care services

better. The Interim Report, titled “Neglect,” made the following observation:

... the language of public discourse is not respectful towards older people. Rather, it is about burden, encumbrance, obligation and whether taxpayers can afford to pay for the dependence of older people. As a nation, Australia has drifted into an ageist mindset that undervalues older people and limits their possibilities (p. 1).

This book describes a social science framework, called Social Role Valorization, that explains this kind of neglect and ageism experienced by older people, and provides a coherent means for addressing it. The contributors also provide examples of its application in helping to create better lives for older people who are at risk of such treatment.

Developed by Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger, Social Role Valorization (SRV) theory – which grew out of what was a paradigm shift in the field of developmental disabilities – helps conceive of ways out of the congregate care dead-end. SRV furnishes keys that unlock the conceptual prison of care that stems from social devaluation and social exclusion. The book contains material by Dr. Wolfensberger that has never been previously published. Put into practice, SRV enables older people, even when they are reduced in health and capacity, to experience more of the good things of life that most people want for themselves and for their loved ones..

To purchase the book:

In Australia and New Zealand, the book may be purchased from:

Community Resource Unit Ltd. (Brisbane) <https://cru.org.au/product/srv-and-ageing/>

and **Belonging Matters** (Melbourne) <https://www.belongingmatters.org/product-page/ageing-and-the-good-things-of-life-the-application-of-social-role-valorization>

Elsewhere the book may be ordered from the VALOR Press <https://presse.valorsolutions.ca/en>

This book includes the following chapters:

Chapter 1 - Wolf Wolfensberger:
A Brief Overview of Social Role Valorization, and Major Implications to the Elderly

Chapter 2 - Michael Rungie & Wolf Wolfensberger:
The Wounding of Older People, and Their Most Common Wounds

Chapter 3 - John Armstrong:
Why SRV Is Important and Relevant in the Current Context of Aged Care Service

Chapter 4 - Ronda Held:
Ageing and Social Role Valorization

Chapter 5 - Lorna Sullivan: Social Role Valorization:
A Conceptual Framework for Transforming Person-Centred Care for Elders

Chapter 6 - Michael Fine & Hal Kendig: Normalizing Old Age and Aged Care:
Social Role Valorization and International Trends in Ageing

Chapter 7 - Michael Rungie: Roles for Older People:
The Ultimate Prize of Social Role Valorization

Chapter 8 - Ronda Held, Jane Sherwin & Joyleen Thomas:
Creating Measures of Real Service Quality Based on SRV: The Experiences of One Agency's Work Towards
Good Lives for Older People

Chapter 9 - Lorna Hallahan: The Better Practice Project:
A Transformative Approach to Work-Integrated Learning in Social Care with Older Australian Citizens

Chapter 10 - Anouk Bolsenbroek & Hanne Laceulle:
Setting the Scene for Later Life: Cultural Stories for Inspiration and Resistance

Chapter 11 - Lynda Shevellar & John Armstrong:
Re-Thinking Respite in Aged Care

Chapter 12 - Jane Sherwin:
Exploring Three Contemporary Residential Responses to Older People Through a Social Role Valorization
Lens

Chapter 13 - Robin Starry Fields:
From One Generation to Another: The Beauty of Lives Shared

Chapter 14 - Jo Massarelli:
Social Role Valorization Applied to the Safeguarding of Elders

Chapter 15 - Wolf Wolfensberger:
The Risk To Life Of Elderly People in the Contemporary Societal Context

