



The evolving needs in family care

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Family care in Europe

- Family care is the main form of support for frail older people across Europe due to economic constraints and community care policies but also due to values about the role of the family.
- Family carers are often spouses/partners, but adult children also play an important role.





The needs of family carers

The core needs of family carers consist of information, education and support.

- Needs for information & education:
 - practical caring skills in daily life
 - knowledge about the relative's illness, common problems & treatment
 - local support services, financial benefits, aids & adaptations available
 - coping skills
- Needs for support:
 - someone understanding to talk to
 - availability of respite care services
 - practical assistance with caring tasks
 - a suitably adapted home environment

Carers' needs change over time and experienced carers are often experts in caring for their elder relative

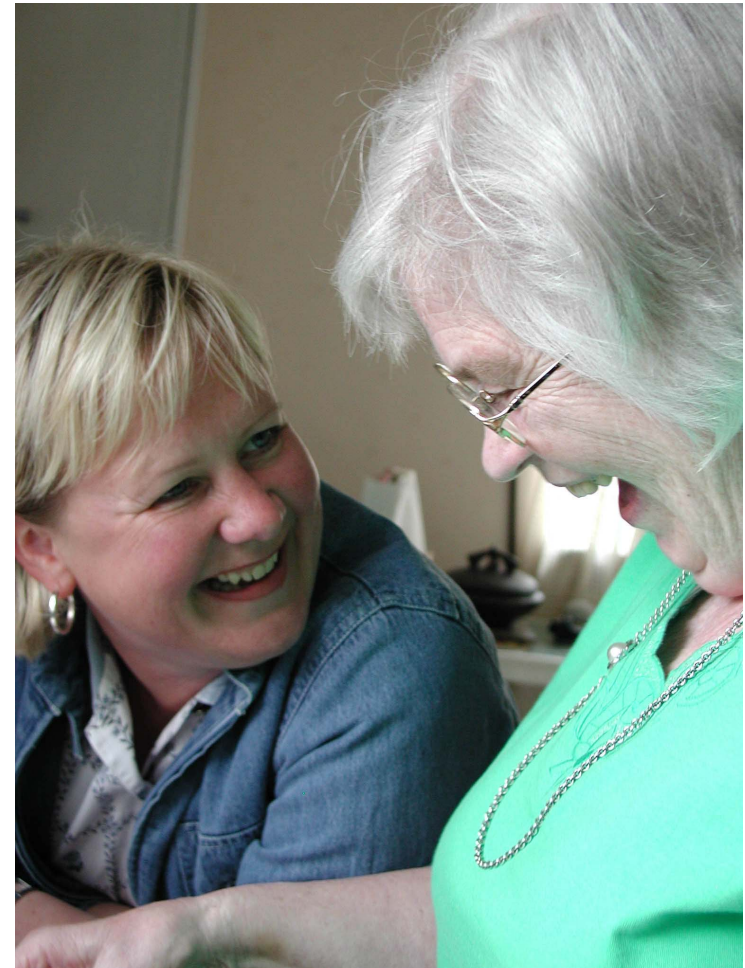






Future challenges to family care

- Fewer adult women available to care due to increasing numbers of women in the workplace and extension of the age of retirement
- Changing family patterns due to increasing divorce rates making caring responsibilities blurred and greater family mobility making it unfeasible to provide care
- How can we create responsive services to support frail older people and their working carers who often live at a distance from each other?





Conclusion

- ICT based support services for carers have the potential to offer flexible forms of support that meet the individual needs of carers, if they are:
 - researched and developed together with a range of carers
 - include commonly excluded groups.





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