

Case Study: Health/National Stories

Reminiscence programs

Cobb+Co Museum, Queensland

Museum Discovery Program, Museum Victoria

2011



Remember when...

Since early 2010, volunteers from the Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba have taken objects from the museum collections into nursing homes to inspire aged care residents to reminisce about their lives. More than 1,000 aged care facility residents have accessed Reminiscence Kits with themes including *Home and Hearth*, *School Days*, *The War Years* and *A Shed in A Box*. The museum has a waiting list of nursing homes keen to utilise the

program and has recently recruited additional volunteers to meet the demand.

Museum Victoria's Discovery Program, which provides access to museum collections for people who may find it difficult to visit because of location or age, reached over 89,000 people in 2009-10; 72% of the over 900 social and natural history presentations provided were in regional Victoria.

One strand of the program is the provision of reminiscing kits for use with aged care groups. Each kit contains a selection of objects chosen to stimulate the senses and promote reminiscing and includes a user-guide for activity coordinators full of information to promote group and one-on-one activities.

Topics include Childhood Games and Pastimes; Dance Hall Days; *Mi viene in mente quando* for older Italians recalling their past life in Italy and migration to Australia; Recipes for Remembering; and Transport and Travel which includes audio of horses' hooves, cable car bells and car horns.

Image above: Powerhouse Museum Collection on Flickr Commons