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**A STUDY OF FAMILIES' EXPERIENCES OF ASSISTING A
MEMBER
INTO RESIDENTIAL CARE**

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for the degree of
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at Massey University

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally the responsibility of caring for an aging relative has fallen upon the family of that person, usually the spouse or the daughter(s). An increase in the state recognised age of retirement, more women returning to or remaining in the workforce, and the tendency of families to be more mobile than in the past, means that the option of being cared for in the community by family members has diminished for some elderly people.

Residential care - an umbrella term for retirement homes, hospitals and secure units - provides an alternative for families unable to care for their aged relative(s). Some research has been done on the phenomenon of relocation into residential care from the client's perspective, yet there is a paucity of information about the experience from the point of view of the families involved in this process. This piece of research sets out to address this issue and to hopefully influence the nursing practice of those who work in this area.

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KEY TO TRANSCRIPTIONS

The abbreviations and conventions given below are used in this study in chapters five, six and seven which discuss the analysis of the data.

Italics: Indicate the words quoted by the participant during the interviews.

...//...: Indicates where material has been edited out of the interview.

(): Figures enclosed in brackets indicate participant number, interview number and page number. For example participant five, interview one, page three would be recorded as (5:1:3).