



The influence of family on social work student placement

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Rose

- o Single mother of three children
- o Has deferred placement twice
- o Elderly parents in fragile health and she helps them by cooking their meals
- o During placement, Rose almost gives up

Tyler

- Lives in a small rural town
- Married with four children - youngest child not yet at school
- Primary carer of his children
- Extended family provide child care during placement

Preparing for placement

- o The time is right
- o Negotiating placement
 - o Convenient location
 - o Part-time options
 - o Flexibility

Drawing on support

- o 'Mum's really supportive. She's an old RN from way back so she knows what the industry is like somewhat and very supportive of me doing it'. Rose
- o 'If I do this [placement] well, that'll impact on him [son]. By me being successful with my study, successful in obtaining a good job, that'll impact on his future.' Tyler

Family relationships

- o 'If I'm proactive and communicate with her about what's happening, then she's okay. If I leave it until the last minute and go, "Oh by the way..." then that just compounds the pressure for her'. Tyler
- o 'They need me at the weekend because they want Mum to play with them'. Rose

Strategic planning

- o Weighing up priorities
- o Short term costs – long term benefits
- o ‘Saving’ time & being organised
- o Impact on learning

Implications

- o Preparation for placement
- o Field education standards
- o Cultural & political change

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