The hidden world of young carers
What I hope you will gain from my presentation

- An understanding of:
  - Hidden nature.
  - Key issues.
  - Possible outcome.
My discovery

○ Young Carer:
  ✓ Up to 25 years.
  ✓ Significant care.
  ✓ On-going care.
  ✓ Elderly, has a disability/illness.

Why didn’t I know?

Andrew (Beefy) and myself

Lauren Elaine Hitchin, Doctoral Student at The University of Auckland. Presentation for the ASID Conference 2013.
Today I will talk about...

Main Idea:
1. Hidden World
   - My research
   - Why does it matter?

Supporting Detail:
2. Four key issues
   - Identity
   - Relationships
   - Balance
   - Choice or Obligation?

Proposed Outcome:
3. Social Network

Research and literature
Young carers’ voices
My experience

Lauren Elaine Hitchin, Doctoral Student at The University of Auckland. Presentation for the ASID Conference 2013.
Hidden World

Research and Literature

“...hidden subgroup”

“...forgotten or ignored”

“...invisible community...”

Young Carers

“...doesn’t live in isolation.”

“Where’s the recognition we deserve?”

“I didn’t know for 10 years”

Lauren Elaine Hitchin, Doctoral Student at The University of Auckland. Presentation for the ASID Conference 2013.
## Aims:

- **Hidden:**
  - Examine how experienced.

- **Identity:**
  - Examine how interpreted.

## Purpose:

- Utilise young carer insights.
- Inform care theories, policies, services.
- Generate awareness.
- Voices are heard.
- Support is received.

## Methods:

- Participant stories.
- Auto-ethnography.
- Collective Story.

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Lauren Elaine Hitchin, Doctoral Student at The University of Auckland. Presentation for the ASID Conference 2013.
Why does it matter?

Close to 3 million.⁹

10% of 15-25 year olds.¹⁰

20% of 15-24 year olds.¹¹

“...for centuries...” ¹²

Extremely vulnerable and disadvantaged.¹³

“...major social issue...” ¹⁴
Key issues: Identity

Research and Literature

“...hidden from the children themselves”.15

“...don’t identify themselves as a carer”.16

Young Carers

“I was only told...at crisis point”.17

“I never knew...”18

I only found out this year.

Aldridge Ferguson et al..

Becker Research and Literature

“I was only told...at crisis point”.

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I only found out this year.

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Key issues:

Relationships

Balance

Are you my...
Friend?
Sister?
Carer?
Key issues: Choice or Obligation?

Choice  

Obligation

Choice  

Obligation

Lauren Elaine Hitchin, Doctoral Student at The University of Auckland. Presentation for the ASID Conference 2013.
Social Network

Connectivity

- Young carer
- Person in their care

- Positive, shared identity
- No longer hidden
Take home message...

It is *Our Time* as young carers to emerge and share our experiences in our place.

Lauren Elaine Hitchin, Doctoral Student at The University of Auckland. Presentation for the ASID Conference 2013.
Thank You
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- End -

Please note:
- Feel free to email me for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.
References


7. Laurel Richardson.

8. Laurel Richardson and Norman Denzin.


Picture Sources

- Title page image: Video still http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZK_5GVdua8
- Presentation picture: http://www.canstockphoto.com/a-person-doing-a-presentation-at-a-6997195.html
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