

## The How of Eating



#### **Healthy Ageing Tasmania**



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### This session will cover

- What it means to eat well
- Strategies to improve how your clients eat
- The importance of social mealtimes
- Resources











Eating well is a critical part of ageing well.

and

Eating well is about much more that what we eat.



### Eating well can mean:



Eating food that makes us feel satisfied



Connecting with our culture and traditions



Celebrating milestones and connect with our community





# Strategies to improve how your clients eat.



Promote regular meals and snacks



Take care with food presentation





Consider your clients' cultural heritage



Avoid interruptions at mealtimes



Take opportunities for social meals



Make the eating environment appealing



### Social mealtimes.

- Social connection is essential to wellbeing
- Studies show that when older people regularly eat alone it increases their risk of:
  - Depression
  - Skipping meals
  - Poor subjective health
  - Decreased energy intake (1,2,3)
- If someone doesn't have family or friends to share a meal with, they could consider:
  - visiting a day centre
  - the Eating with Friends program
  - contacting their local neighbourhood house.





### Resources and support.

www.health.tas.gov.au/healthy-ageing

- Nutrition for older people online training
- Malnutrition in older people online training
- Factsheets to support eating well.







### References

- 1. Singer C. Health effects of social isolation and loneliness. J. Aging Life Care. 2018;28:4-8.
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- 3. Kvalsvik F, Øgaard T, Jensen Ø. Environmental factors that impact the eating behavior of home-living older adults. International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances. 2021 Nov 1;3:100046.





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Visit the Department of Health website (www.health.gov.au) for more information.



