



An Australian Government Initiative



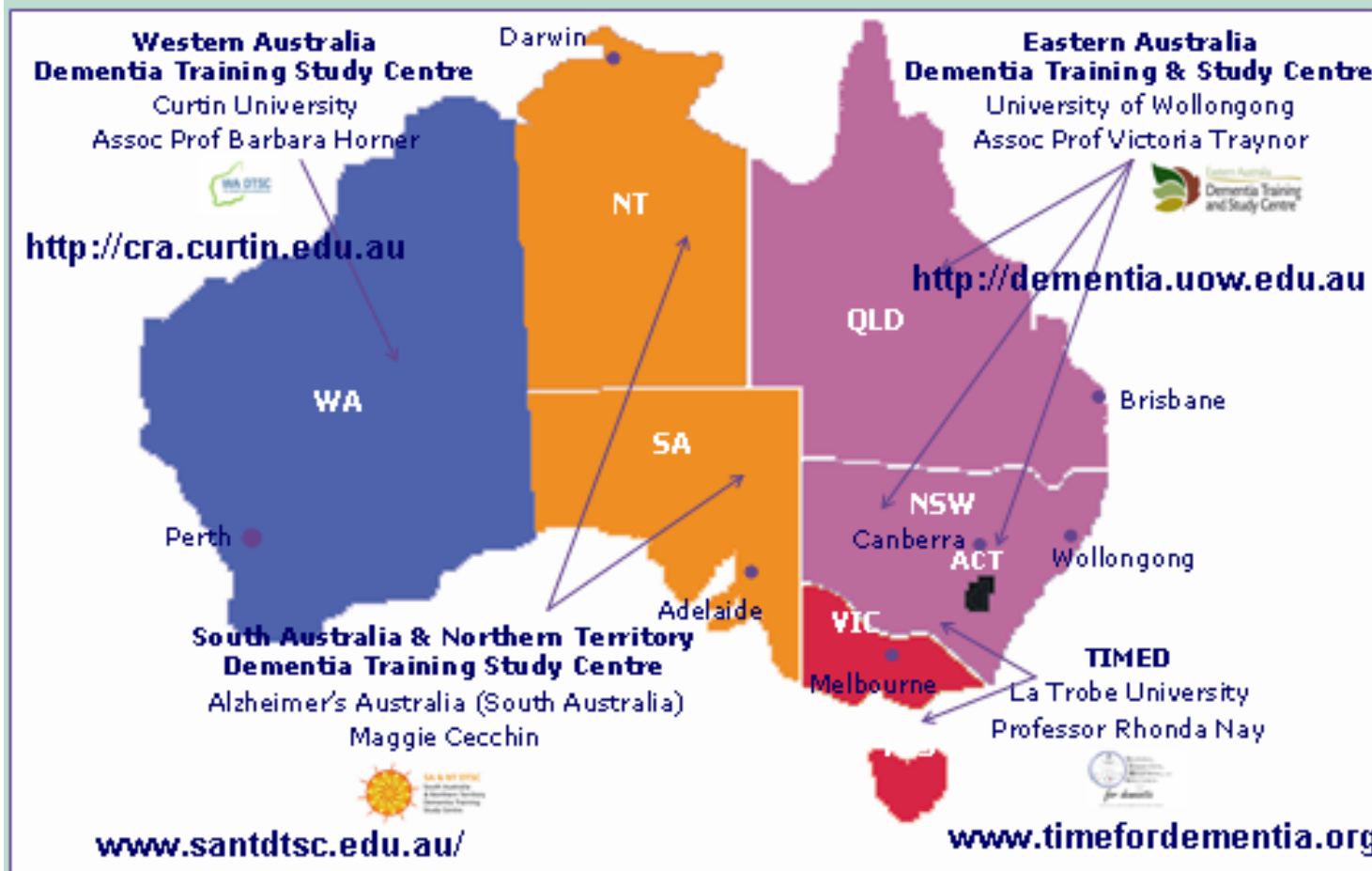
“Evidence Based Dementia Care: Where and How for Practitioners”

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DTSC Locations and Regional Coverage





Presentation Aim

- Address a service need posed by stakeholders of the EADTSC :
 - “One of your [EADTSC] main purposes could be to provide best practice dementia care guidelines for our staff.”
- Or put more simply
- “Tell us what we should do.”



Presentation Objectives

- Overview of current knowledge among health care practitioners using “Dementia Literacy” questionnaire
- Explore potential usefulness of a “Competency” model
- Challenge applicability of traditional “evidence based” model of best practice in dementia care
- Highlight specific issues of implementation by aged care practitioners
- Implementation strategies for consumer groups, policy makers, managers, researchers, and practitioners

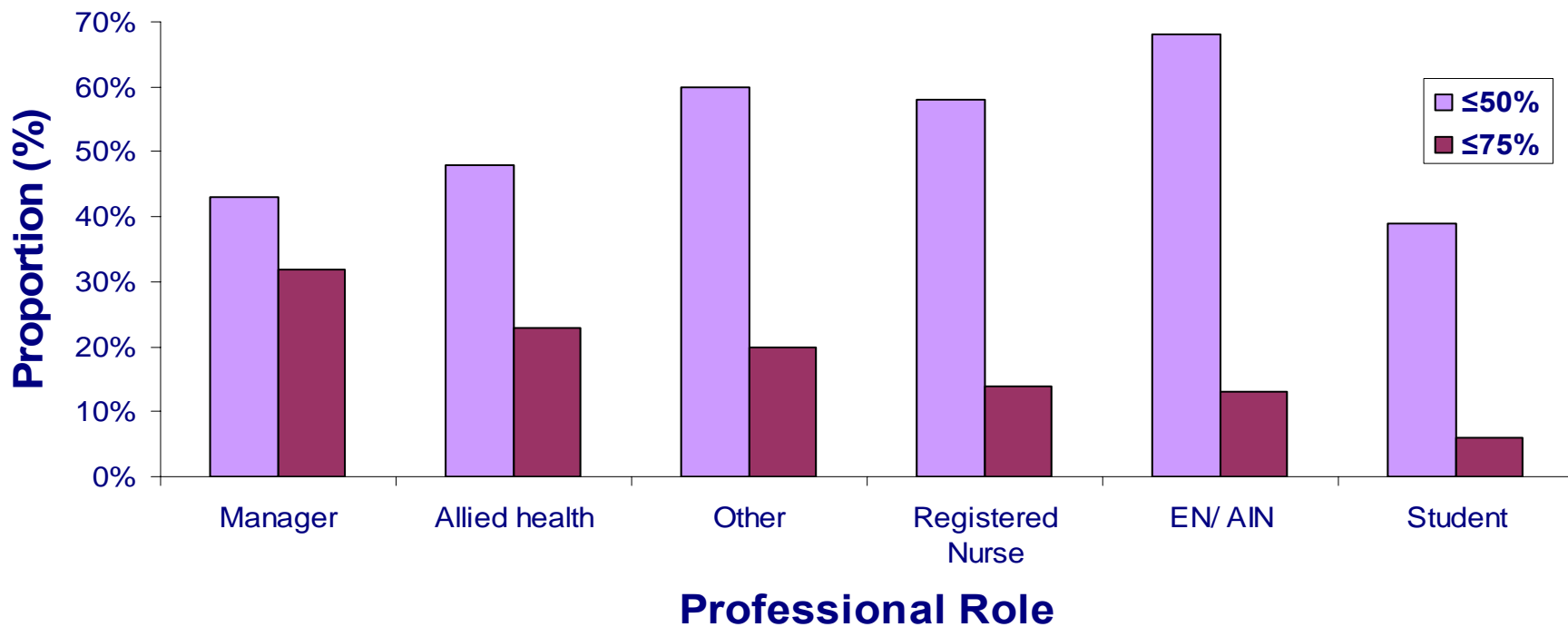


“Dementia Literacy” Questionnaire

- Develop EADTSC “Dementia Knowledge Quiz”
 - 9 demographic items
 - 13 “knowledge” items
- Participants are practitioners working across care settings in NSW and QLD
- Topics used to evaluate dementia knowledge
 - Epidemiology and pathophysiology
 - Recognition of dementia
 - Therapeutic strategies



Quiz Items Correct among Acute Care Staff by Professional Role



Traynor, V.; Humpel, N. & Miller, M. (2007) *Dementia Literacy Among Health Care Practitioners: Development and administration of a dementia quiz* Wollongong: EADTSC, UoW



Implications of Findings from Dementia Quiz

- Existing evidence is not known by practitioners and needs enhanced, particularly, among RNs
- Focus on specific care issues is required to improve dementia care delivery
- Findings have been used to inform content of EADTSC dementia workshops
- Priorities need to be driven by clinical relevance and a research agenda



Dementia Competencies: A review of the literature

- Literature search
 - Grey literature
 - Peak bodies
 - Care standards
 - Educational programmes
- Findings
 - 164 publications accessed
 - 59 publications reviewed
- One empirical study
 - Dewing J. & Traynor V. (2005) Admiral Nursing Competency Project: Practice development and action research *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 14(6); 695-703



Competencies Across Levels of Nursing and Care Settings

1. Understanding dementia
2. Recognising dementia
3. Effective communication
4. Assisting with daily living activities
5. Promoting a positive environment
6. Ethical and person centred care
7. Therapeutic work (intervention strategies)
8. Responding to the needs of family carers
9. Preventative work and health promotion

Traynor, V., Inoue, I., & Crookes, P. (2007) *Competencies in Dementia Care: Across Care Settings and Levels of Nursing Practice: A literature review* Final report to the DCRC, UNSW. Unpublished report. Wollongong: UoW



DoHA Dementia Research Mapping Topics

- Definitions and diagnostic criteria
- Epidemiology
- Aetiology and pathophysiology
- Risk and protective factors
- Diagnosis and assessment
- Treatment
- Care and support of people with dementia and their family carers



Consumer Input to Evidence Base

- Consumer and carer experiences
 - “We’ve got it doubly bad. She’s got Alzheimer’s and dementia.”
 - “By the time we got a diagnosis the gardener could have told us he’s got dementia.”
- Alternative research approaches
 - e.g. Traynor V. & Dewing J. (2002) *Identifying User and Carer-Defined Outcomes that can be Used to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Drugs for Dementia* London: RCN
- Partnerships with Peak Bodies
 - Alzheimer’s Australia
 - Care Standards Agency

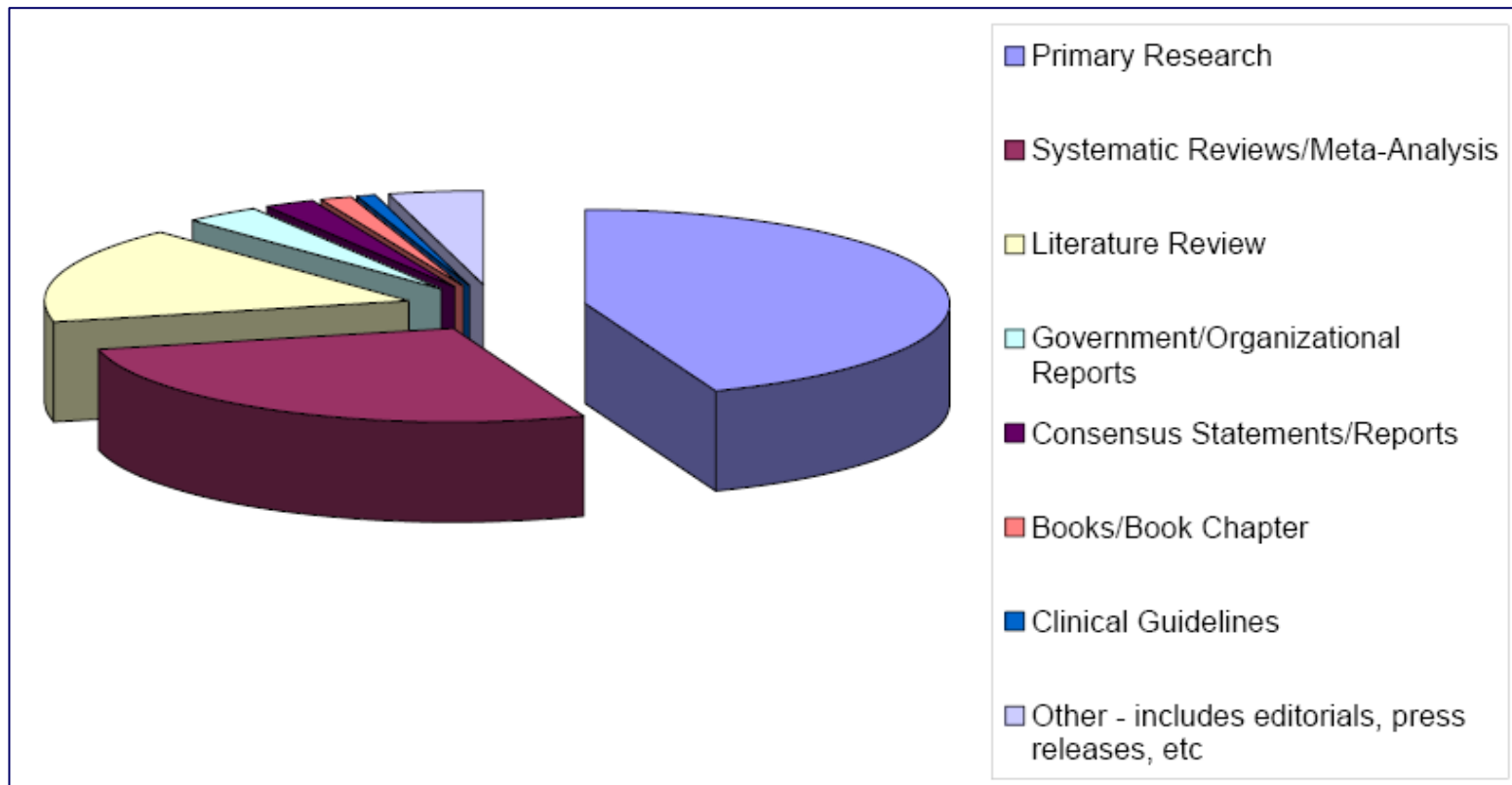


Key issues in dementia care

- Screening and diagnosis
- Role of the family carer
- Distress in person with dementia which cannot be understood or relieved
- Personal care issues
- Impact of the environment



Summary of Dementia Research Mapping

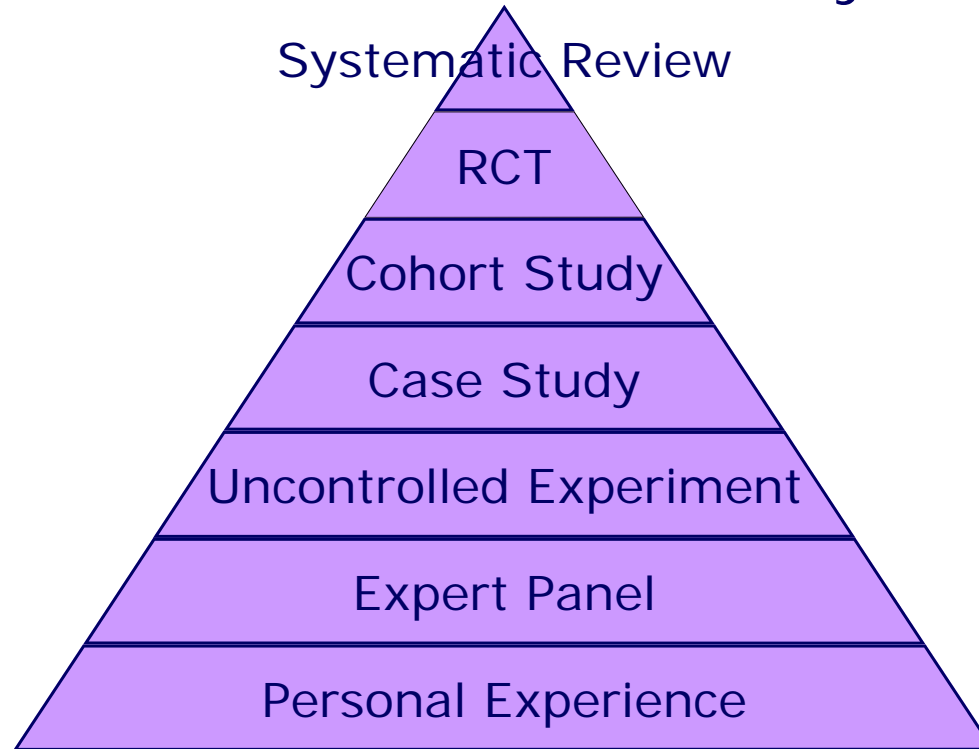


Bartlett, H., Byrne, G., Gray, L., Travers, C., Lui, C-W. (2006) *Dementia Research Mapping Project. Final Report for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing*. Australasian Centre on Ageing, The University of Queensland [<http://www.aro.gov.au/documents/Dementia%20RMP%20Report%20final.pdf>]



Role of evidence based medicine in dementia care?

Traditional model of the hierarchy of evidence



Adapted from: Davies, HTO & Crombie, IK (2001) *What is a Systematic Review* Oxford: Centre for Evidence Based Medicine [<http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/painres/download/whatis/Syst-review.pdf>]



Existing summaries of evidence based practices

- Subscription services
 - Databases (generic and aged care specific)
 - Specialist journals
- “Free to View” sources
 - Cochrane Library
 - National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS)/ National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE)
 - Health Technology Assessments
 - La Trobe University initiatives (ACEBAC and LOCATE)
 - Dementia Training Study Centres (DTSCs)
 - Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (D CRCs)



Alternative Model of Evidence

- Carper's "Ways of Knowing"
 - Personal Knowing: Use of Self
 - Ethics: Moral Knowledge
 - Aesthetics: Art of Nursing
 - Empirics: Science of Nursing
- Implementation of evidence using an alternative model
 - Reflective practice



Specific Challenges in Aged Care

- Cohort effect
- Staffing skill-mix
- Access to IT
- IT literacy
- Federal funding model
- Rural and remote care delivery
- Organisational educational commitment



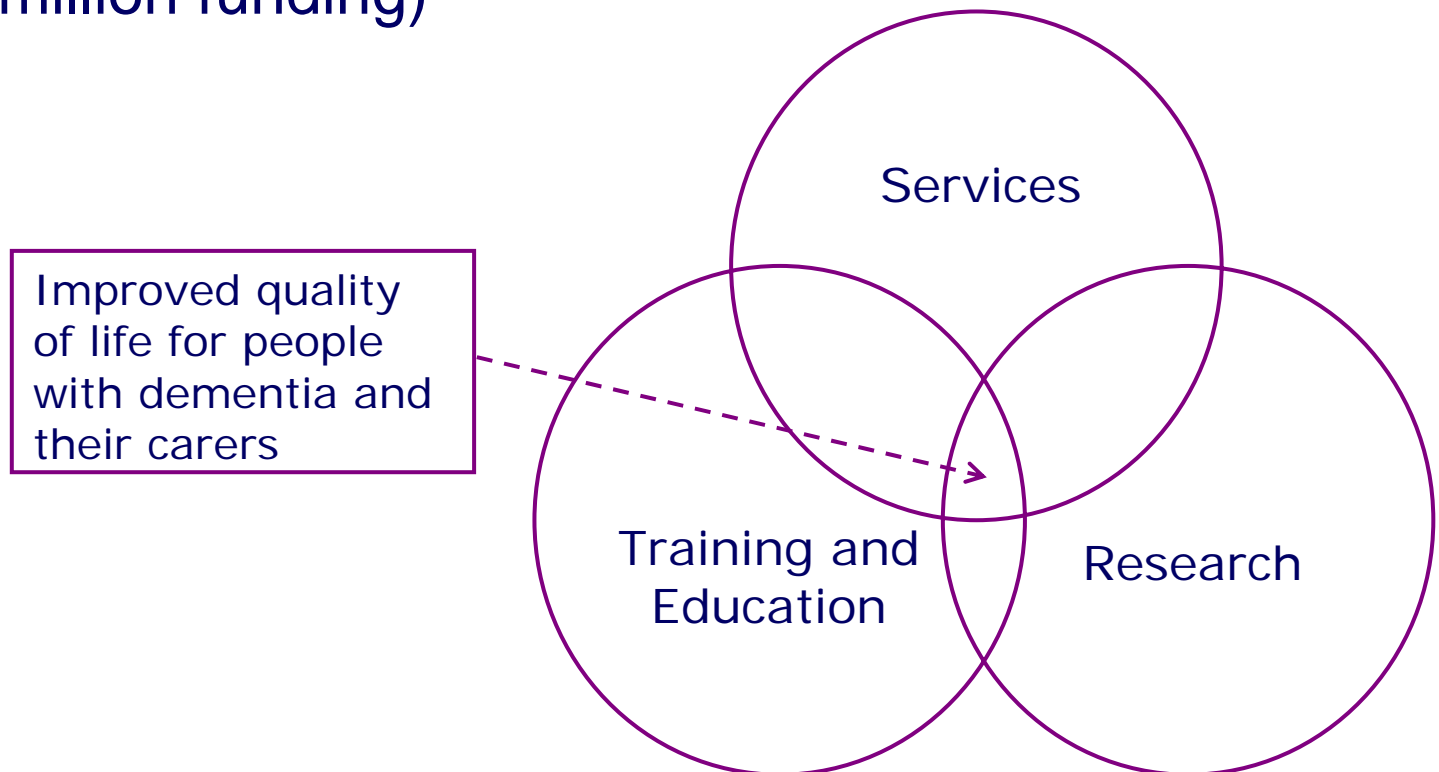
Impact of IT usage

- UoW Research (in progress)
 - Delphi Study exploring use of online educational resources
(Zhang, Yu & Traynor)
 - Aged care staff skill in using IT technology
(Yu et al.)



DoHA Role: Australia becomes a World Leader

- DoHA (2005) “Dementia: A National Health Priority” (\$320 million funding)





Highlights of DoHA Dementia Initiative

Dementia Training Study Centres

- EADTSC (UoW) (National Co-ordinator Role)
- TIMED (Vic and Tasmania) (La Trobe University)
- WA DTSC (Curtin University)
- NT&SA DTSC (AA South Australia)

Dementia Collaborative Research Centres

- Assessment and Better Outcomes (UNSW) (Primary CRC)
- Prevention, Risk Reduction and Early Detection (ANU)
- Consumers, Carers and Social Research (QUT)



Dementia Training Study Centres (DTSCs)

- Academic and industry partnerships
- Enhance the knowledge and skills of registered practitioners
- Provide tertiary level dementia education
- Develop career pathways in dementia care
- Implement evidence based practice



EADTSC Research & Consultancy

- “Acute Care of People with Dementia”
 - Thursday Presentation at “Change Champion” Seminar
 - Dementia Champion Programme



EADTSC Dementia Education Online Resource

- Target Audiences
 - Students studying healthcare subjects (UG and PG)
 - Staff working with older people
- Format
 - Multi-disciplinary focus
 - Three learning modules
 - Equivalent of 3 x 3 hrs of learning time
 - Interactive learning resource
- Website address
 - <http://dementia.uow.edu.au/understandingdementiacare/>



PG Studies with EADTSC

Graduate Certificate/ Masters/
Professional Development subjects

- Multi-disciplinary focus
- Fully Distance Learning Options

Enrol in PG "Aged Care"
course at Host University
+ Electives from EADTSC
portfolio of PG Dementia
Subjects*

Subject 1:
"Dementia Care Across
Settings?"
(UoW)

Subject 2:
"Decision Making in
Dementia"
(GU)

Subject 3:
"Palliative Care in
Dementia"
(QUT)

<http://dementia.edu.au>



Improving Partnerships for DTSCs and DCRCs

- DTSCs
 - Scholarship schemes
 - Practitioner led educational programmes
- DCRCs
 - New “Knowledge Transfer Specialist”
 - Consumer driven research agenda



Conclusion and summary

- Dementia knowledge among practitioners is lacking in some areas
- Competency models offer an approach to shape priorities
- New avenues for consumers to promote alternative sources of evidence for best practice need to be developed
- Aged care providers could use their educational funds to invest in access to evidence based material
- Potential for more active promotion of existing summaries of best practice
- Broad range of evidence use should be promoted
- Creative educational programmes can be used to promote implementation of evidence
- Partnerships between DTSCs/ DCRCs and service providers could promote implementation of best practice dementia care



References

- **Cochrane Library**
 - <http://www.cochrane.org.au>
- **HTA Programme**
 - <http://www.ncchta.org>
- **NICS**
 - <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics>
- **NICE**
 - <http://www.nice.org.uk>
- **Joanna Briggs Institute**
 - <http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au>
- **ACEBAC**
 - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/acebac>
- **LOCATE**
 - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/locate>
- **Dementia CRCs**
 - <http://www.dementia.unsw.edu.au>
- **DTSCs**
 - <http://dementia.uow.edu.au>
- **Journal of Dementia Care**
 - <http://www.careinfo.org/dementiacare>
- **Dementia: International Journal of Social Research & Practice**
 - <http://dem.sagepub.com>
- **Australasian Journal on Ageing**
 - <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=1440-6381>
- **International Psychogeriatrics**
 - <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=IPG#>
- **International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry**
 - <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/4294/home>



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