



An Australian Government Initiative



Eastern Australia
Dementia Training and Study Centre

Dementia Education Online

Introduction:

Would you like to develop contemporary knowledge and skills related to the care of people living with dementia? If so, you will be interested in a new series of freely available and fully online undergraduate dementia education resources designed by leading academics who are experts in dementia care and members of the Eastern Australia Dementia Training and Study Centre (EADTSC). Funding for the development of these new resources was provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

These resources are designed to provide students and staff studying or working in multi-disciplinary areas of health with a flexible opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills in working with people who have dementia and their family carers.

Content is delivered through three modules:

1. 'What is Dementia?'
Produced by the University of Wollongong (UOW)
2. 'Recognising Dementia'
Produced by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
3. 'Communication in Dementia Care'
Produced by Griffith University (GU)



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Dementia Education Online can be found at:
<http://dementia.uow.edu.au/understandingdementiacare>

Target audiences:

- Undergraduate students completing health-related courses.
- Health and care staff wishing to undertake professional development to improve their knowledge and skills in dementia care.

Delivery format:

- Fully online resources that are freely available.
- Each module is equivalent to 3 hours of learning.
- Use of vignettes to provide practice-based contexts.
- Extensive resources for future reference and learning.

Learning activities:

- Structured exercises to increase knowledge and skills in dementia care.
- Practice-based exercises to promote reflection
- Topics relevant to community, acute care, and residential aged care settings.
- Inclusion of contemporary publications and website resources.
- Quizzes to review gains in dementia-related knowledge.





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Overview of module content:

1. 'What is Dementia?'
 - Incidence and prevalence of dementia.
 - Different types of dementia and associated pathophysiology.
 - Insight into the needs of special groups in the community with a diagnosis of dementia.
 - Impact of dementia from the perspective of the person with dementia and carers.
2. 'Recognising Dementia'
 - Screening and assessment in dementia.
 - Distinguishing between dementia, delirium, and depression.
 - Making a differential diagnosis.
 - Supporting persons with dementia and carers during an assessment.
 - Multi-disciplinary approach to the screening and assessment of dementia.
3. 'Communication in Dementia Care'
 - Impact of dementia on communication.
 - Importance of effective communication in dementia care.
 - Strategies to enhance communication between practitioners, the person with dementia, and carers.



Quality assurance of EADTSC curriculum materials:

- Content for the 3 modules was developed by EADTSC academic and industry partners.
- Internal review was provided by the relevant educational committees within the EADTSC academic partner institutions.
- Content and delivery format was reviewed and amended by an external advisory group.

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