The NSW/ACT Dementia Training Study Centre and Knowledge Translation
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Acknowledgement

This talk leans heavily on the research described in:-


Knowledge Translation

• The very fact that this term has gained visibility in health research represents a major shift in our priorities. In the past, considerable amounts of money have been spent on clinical research while relatively little attention has been paid to ensuring that the findings of research were captured by its potential beneficiaries

(Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR))
Research

Practice
The process of translating knowledge into practice

Awareness → Agreement → Adoption → Adherence

Hints on overcoming these problems

- Begin by synthesizing existing high-quality research for policy and practice collaborators
  - And as an initial educational activity for the team as well as preparation for subsequent research activities (Davis et al., 2003).
- Establish inter-organizational collaborations
- Involve collaborators throughout the research cycle to improve their investment in the research and help translate the research into language that will be understood, considered relevant (Martens & Roos, 2005).
Research, education, training and practice – what are we doing?
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Dementia Collaborative Research Centres

- 3 established
- Generation and collation of knowledge
- Knowledge Translation

Dementia Care Essentials
**Research, education, training and practice – what are we doing?**

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# Research, education, training and practice – what are we doing?

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• Generation and collation of knowledge  
• Knowledge Translation |
| Dementia Training Study Centres | • 5 established  
• Improving tertiary and post graduate education by encouraging a focus on dementia related topics  
• Professionalising the workforce |
| Dementia Care Essentials | • 7 project established across Australia  
• Delivery of VETAB accredited dementia training  
• 22,000 staff trained in 4 years and continuing |
What research is going on?

The 3 Dementia Collaborative Research Centres are actively engaged in research.

The following is a list of their completed and continuing projects
Research About Assessment and Better Care Outcomes

• The care of people with dementia in General Practice
  – A literature review covering diagnosis, assessment and management of dementia in general practice, and a review examining the best way to change behaviour in General Practice to effect improvement in services
  – Four focus groups of GPs and practice nurses, examining current and proposed practice in dementia assessment, diagnosis and management
  – Inappropriate medication use in community dwelling elderly people with and without cognitive impairment

• Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia
  – Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia: a literature review of psychosocial treatments and the identification of further research topics regarding treatment effectiveness and implementation
  – Montessori activities as a treatment of challenging behaviours in people with dementia from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
  – A virtual model of service delivery for behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia
Research About Assessment and Better Care Outcomes

- **Nursing care of people with Dementia**
  - Competencies in Dementia Care: Across Care Settings and Levels of Nursing Practice
  - Recruitment and Retention of nurses in Dementia/Aged Care
  - Strategies which recruit and retain dementia & aged care nurses in Australian health care settings

- **Transitions in care of people with Dementia**
  - Pathways into and through the health and aged care system for people with dementia

- **Physical co-morbidities of Dementia**
  - Development of guidelines for assessment and management of physical co-morbidities associated with dementia
Research About Assessment and Better Care Outcomes

- **Technology and Design**
  - Review of the role of technology and environmental design in delivering better care outcomes for people with dementia
  - Environmental design for people with dementia: charting the gap between theory and practice in the design of new residential facilities
  - Evaluation of the Stirling 'Design for People with Dementia: Audit tool'
- **Rural and Remote**
  - Focus on current practice and best practice in dementia care in a remote or rural setting
Research About Prevention, Early Intervention and Risk Reduction

- **Understanding Risks for Dementia**
  - This program will include identification and review of ‘established’ and new or emerging risk factors; genetic-biological markers, environment and lifestyle factors and their interaction in developing dementia will also be examined.

- **Development of Diagnostic Tools and Algorithms for Early Dementia**
  - Diagnostic tools and pathways for cognitive testing (e.g. checklists, computerised and on-line or self-administered tools) will be reviewed and developed. Neuro-imaging projects will include the development of the Australian Normative and Dementia Imaging Database (ANDI) whilst methodological development of dementia-related biomarkers will also be undertaken.
Research About Prevention, Early Intervention and Risk Reduction

- **Development of Risk Reduction Interventions**
  - Projects under this program are aimed at translating the knowledge derived from programs A and B into health professional and public awareness, knowledge and action.

- **Modelling Impacts of Risk Reduction on Cognitive Decline and Dementia**
  - Projects will develop methodology for, and model, the impact of dementia risk reduction programs.
Research About Carers and Consumers

- The effectiveness and appropriateness of a palliative approach to care for people with advanced dementia: A systematic review
- Oral liquid nutritional supplements (OLNS) for people with dementia in residential aged care facilities: A systematic review
- Thickened Fluids for people with dementia in residential aged care facilities; A systematic review
- Review of current research activities in aged care services and the identification of priorities for support with completion and dissemination of results
- Older people who receive enteral nutrition via gastrostomy tubes: A population-based study of incidence, indications and outcomes
- Loneliness: The influence of activity and social engagement on loneliness and Quality of Life on people with dementia and their carers
Research About Carers and Consumers

- Investigation of the use of thickened fluids/energy supplements for people with dementia in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs)
- Clinical Practice Improvement in Acute Care Settings – Pain Priority
- Development of a method of assessing the implementation of Person Centred Care in the management of pain in all care settings
- Understanding dementia in urban, rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland
- Respite care in dementia: Consumer and provider perspectives
- The impact of stigma on a diagnosis and treatment of dementia
- Predictors of complicated grief and health outcomes in family caregivers of people with dementia
- Dementia with Lewy Bodies: Evaluating carers' experiences
What education is going on?
The NSW/ACT Dementia Training Study Centre is one of five DTSCs established by the Australian Government to work with tertiary prepared staff.

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<th>Region of coverage</th>
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<td>University of Wollongong</td>
<td>New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queensland Dementia Training Study Centre (QLD DTSC)</td>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Alzheimer’s Australia SA</td>
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<td>Victorian and Tasmanian Dementia Training Study Centre (TIME DTSC)</td>
<td>La Trobe University</td>
<td>Victoria and Tasmania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Australian Dementia Training Study Centre (WA DTSC)</td>
<td>Curtin University of Technology</td>
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Our overall goals are to improve care through :-

- Education and training
- Furthering knowledge transfer and translation
Activities

Provide

• teaching aids and resources
• guest lectures and clinical workshops
• liaison with key stakeholders
• work placements
• Scholarships

Develop

• career pathways
• dementia-specific curricula
Target Groups

- Nurses;
- General practitioners;
- Medical specialists (eg geriatricians and psychiatrists);
- Social workers;
- Occupational and diversional therapists;
- Psychologists; and
- Other allied health disciplines
- Architects
- Residential care workers (as a value add to DCE)
- People from and caring for people from
  - Culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD);
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander (ATSI) communities; and
  - Regional, rural and remote communities.
- People with and caring for people with younger onset dementia
Dementia Care Essentials

The objectives of the *Dementia Care Skills for Aged Care Workers* project are to:

- increase the dementia care skills among aged care workers by
  - providing training for aged care workers in dementia care according to the standards in the competency-based unit in the Community Services Training Package, namely *Provide Care Support which is Responsive to the Specific Nature of Dementia* (CHCAC15A); and
  - assessing aged care workers in the workplace against the dementia competency
Dementia Care Essentials

- Approximately 22,000 staff trained to date
- Tenders for next round of training under consideration by DoHA
The question: can we help to bring the elements of this grand plan together

• Dementia Collaborative Research Centres

• Dementia Training Study Centres

• Dementia Care Essentials
... not only in a top down way but in a continuous, two way, conversation?

- Dementia Collaborative Research Centres
- Dementia Training Study Centres
- Dementia Care Essentials
Attributes and skills of a knowledge broker

- Entrepreneurial (networking, problem solving, innovating)
- Trusted and credible
- Clear communicator
- Understands the cultures of both the research and decision making environments
- Able to find and assess relevant research in a variety of formats
- Facilitates, mediates, and negotiates
- Understands the principles of adult learning

References