

Background to the project

Globally countries are looking for innovative workforce solutions to deliver services to the projected rising number of people with dementia [1]. Primary health care services play an essential and long term role in diagnosing dementia then supporting the person with dementia and their carers. However, barriers to dementia diagnosis by General Practitioners include the time consuming nature of dementia diagnosis and subsequent counseling and service referral [2]. As a result diagnosis of dementia may be missed in up to 70% of cases, with diagnostic delays from symptom onset of up to 3 years [2-3].

These missed diagnoses are problematic because early diagnosis provides benefits, such as timely access to potentially beneficial medications, being able to plan ahead for financial and legal matters while cognitive capacity is adequate.

1 Access Economics (2009). Keeping dementia front of mind: incidence and prevalence 2009-2050.

2 Bond, J et al (2005). Inequalities in dementia care across Europe: Key findings of the Facing Dementia Survey. International Journal of Clinical Practice. 59(146), 8-14.

3 Valcour et al. (2000). The detection of dementia in the primary care setting. Archives of Internal Medicine, 160(19), 2964-2968.



This research project will

- ◆ Support General Practitioners in the process of gathering vital cognitive function information to enable, where indicated, a timely diagnosis of dementia.
- ◆ Explore the potential of a primary health care Nurse-led assessment clinic.
- ◆ Trial the development of an innovative role for Nurse Practitioners Aged Care.
- ◆ Provide screening and referral services.

Referral Process:

Please complete the form overleaf

Funding for this innovative project has been awarded by the Mason Foundation (Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams).



Private Bag 23
Wicking Dementia Research & Education Centre
Menzies Research Institute
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Phone: 03 6226 8510
Fax: 03 6230 7542
E-mail: hazel.ryan@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Nurse-Led Memory Clinic Southern Tasmania Health Professionals Referral form



This project is accepting referrals from

General Practitioners

Aged Care Assessment Teams *

Alzheimer's Association Tasmania *

Southern Area Health Service *

- Geriatric Outpatient Clinics

- Aged Services Assessment Team

Self referrals *

* with GP contact details