

DR. JACQUELINE WESSON

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EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2017 PhD, Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney

1993 Master of Arts (Education and Work), Macquarie University

1987 Bachelor of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy, CCHS, Sydney

AWARDS/ SCHOLARSHIPS

2025	\$200	Sydney Dementia Network Early Career Research Impact Prize
2024	\$50,000	University of Sydney Research Excellence and Inclusion Prize 2025 – Thompson Prize
2024	\$1,500	Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) Strategic Research Award, University of Sydney
2016	-	Best PhD paper, Ageing & Health Research Unit, University of Sydney
2011-13	\$90,000	Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Assessment and Better Care, UNSW Full time PhD Scholarship
2013	\$5,000	ARC CEPAR (Centre of Excellence for Population Ageing Research) Supplementary Scholarship
2013	\$12,000	Mary Frances Stephens Occupational Therapy Supplementary Scholarship, Faculty of Health, University of Sydney

SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS

DARF Project Grant 2023	\$75,000	Dr Jacqueline Wesson	Functional cognition screening to detect subtle functional difficulties in everyday activities in older adults: which tool is fit for purpose?	CIA
DARF Project Grant 2023	\$75,000	Dr Deborah Brooks (CIA UQ)	Improving the mental health of residents with dementia: Pilot-testing a Mental Health Care Indicator Tool within residential aged care homes	AI
MRFF 2021 Early to Mid-Career Researchers	\$677,742	Dr Mouna Sawan (CIA U Syd)	Reducing medication-related harm in people living with dementia through community action	CIE
University of Sydney FMH New Academic Start Up Grant	\$75,000 2022-2024	Dr Jacqueline Wesson	Exploring behaviour support plans for people in residential aged care: are they positive practices & processes?	CIA
MRFF 2021 DAAC Mission Innovation Grant Pitch	\$200,000 2022-2023	Dr Michelle Kelly (CIA UON)	Implementing a Preventative Care Program to optimise mental health during transition into residential aged care	CIJ
NHMRC 2021 Partnerships Project	\$1,206,734 2022-2027	Prof Yun-Hee Jeon (CIA U Syd)	Optimising functional and social independence and safety of older people living with dementia in care homes: Implementation research	AI
MRFF 2020 DAAC Mission	\$1,252,778 2021-2025	Dr Simone Reppermund (CIA UNSW)	Development, Validation & Implementation of a Computerised Tool to Assess Instrumental Activities of Daily Living	CIJ
MRFF 2020 DAAC Mission	\$1,952,566 2021-2025	Prof Simon Bell (CIA Monash)	Knowledge Brokers for Evidence Translation to Improve Quality Use of Medicines in Residential Aged Care	AI

PUBLICATIONS – SELECTED REFEREED JOURNALS

- 2025 Brooks, D., Sriram, R., Brimelow, R., Burley, C., **Wesson, J.**, MacAndrew, M. et al. Mental Health–Related Quality Indicators for Long-Term Care: A Modified Delphi Consensus Study. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* **26**(9). DOI: 10.1016/j.jamda.2025.105768
- 2025 Johnston, B., Mackenzie, L., O'Donnell, J. & **Wesson, J.** Cognitive clinical assessments to predict performance on an on-road assessment: a scoping review. *Disability and rehabilitation*: 1-9. DOI: 10.1080/09638288.2025.2512057
- 2025 Ea, A.M.L., Cross, A. J., Martini, A., **Wesson J.** and J. S. Bell. Generating and translating evidence for safe and effective medication management in aged care homes. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. DOI: 10.1111/bcp.16269
- 2025 Jeon, Y. H., Hobbs, A., Nelson, K., Fethney, J., Comans, T., Conway, J., Mowszowski, L., Hill, K., **Wesson, J.**... Evaluation of the Interdisciplinary Care Home-based Reablement Program (I-CHARP) for People Living With Cognitive Impairment and Dementia in Care Homes. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. DOI: 10.1111/jan.16588
- 2024 Cheung, D., Paul, S. S., Mackenzie, L., **Wesson, J.**, Goh, L., Canning, C. G., Almeida, L. R. S., Enright, M., & Allen, N. E. A scoping review of safe mobility behaviour in fall prevention: implications for people with Parkinson's disease. *Disability and rehabilitation*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2024.2425060>
- 2024 Clough, A. J., Gnjdjic, D., Cross, A. J., Jokanovic, N., Watson, K., **Wesson, J.**, Beshara, S., Cheng, J., & Sawan, M. J. Medication management information priorities of people living with dementia and their carers: a scoping review. *Age and Ageing*, 53(9). <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afae200>
- 2024 Bell, J. S., La Caze, A., Steeper, M., Haines, T. P., Hilmer, S. N... **Wesson, J.**, Pond, C. D., Buys, L...Cross, A. J. (2024). Evidence-based Medication knowledge Brokers in Residential Aged Care (EMBRACE): protocol for a helix-counterbalanced randomised controlled trial. *Implementation Science*, 19(1), 24. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-024-01353-z>
- 2023 **Wesson, J.**, du Toit, S. H. J., Wales, K., Gresham, M., Flavin, T., Brodaty, H. Australian National – Aged Care Classification behaviour assessment and people living with dementia in residential aged care – inclusive language for reform? *Australasian Journal of Ageing*, 42 (1) 234-240. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.13142>
- 2021 Taylor, M. E., **Wesson, J.**, Sherrington, C., Hill, K. D., Kurrle, S., Lord, S. R., Brodaty, H., Howard, K...& Close, J. C. T. Tailored Exercise and Home Hazard Reduction Program for Fall Prevention in Older People With Cognitive Impairment: The i-FOCIS Randomized Controlled Trial. *The Journals of Gerontology. Series A, Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, 76(4), 655-665. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/glaa241>
- 2021 Low, L. F., Laver, K., Lawler, K., Swaffer, K., Bahar-Fuchs, A., Bennett, S., Blair, A., Burton, J., Callisaya, M... Poulos, C. J., **Wesson, J.**, Scott, T. L., & Rees, G. We need a model of health and aged care services that adequately supports Australians with dementia. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 214(2), 66-68.e61. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.50911>
- 2017 **Wesson, J.**, Clemson, L., Crawford, J. D., Kochan, N. A., Brodaty, H., & Reppermund, S. Measurement of Functional Cognition and Complex Everyday Activities in Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Mild Dementia: Validity of the Large Allen's Cognitive Level Screen. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. doi:10.1016/j.jagp.2016.11.021
- 2017 Reppermund, S., Birch, R. C., Crawford, J. D., **Wesson, J.**, Draper, B., Kochan, N. A., Trollor, J... Brodaty, H., & Sachdev, P. S. Performance-Based Assessment of Instrumental Activities of Daily Living: Validation of the Sydney Test of Activities of Daily Living in Memory Disorders (STAM). *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 18(2), 117-122.
- 2016 **Wesson, J.**, Clemson, L., Brodaty, H., & Reppermund, S. Estimating functional cognition in older adults using observational assessments of task performance in complex everyday activities: A

systematic review and evaluation of measurement properties. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 68, 335-360. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2016.05.024>

- 2013 **Wesson, J.**, Clemson, L., Brodaty, H., Lord, S., Taylor, M., Gitlin, L., & Close, J. A feasibility study and pilot randomised trial of a tailored prevention program to reduce falls in older people with mild dementia [Article]. *BMC Geriatrics*, 13(1), Article 89. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2318-13-89>

PUBLICATIONS – REPORTS

- 2025 Mowszowski, L. & **Wesson, J.** Assessing cognitive and functional abilities. In: *World Alzheimer Report 2025: Reimagining life with dementia – the power of rehabilitation*. London, England: Alzheimer's Disease International.
- 2025 Callisaya, M. L., MacAndrew, M., Elliott, N. & Wesson, J. Workforce education and training and the importance of an interdisciplinary approach. In: *World Alzheimer Report 2025: Reimagining life with dementia – the power of rehabilitation*. London, England: Alzheimer's Disease International.

PUBLICATIONS – BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2021 O'Connor, C., **Wesson, J.** & Clemson, L. Active and Engaged: Maintaining Leisure Activities in Dementia. In Low, L-F & Laver, K. (Eds) *Dementia Rehabilitation, Evidence Based Interventions and Clinical Recommendations*, (pp. 97-110), Academic Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818685-5.00006-4>.
- 2019 **Wesson, J.** & Giles, G.M. Understanding Functional Cognition. In T. J. Wolf, Edwards, D.F., & Giles, G. M. (Ed.), *Functional Cognition and Occupational Therapy. A Practical Approach to Treating Individuals with Cognitive Loss* (pp. 7 - 20). Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. https://myaota.aota.org/shop_aota/product/900477U
- 2019 **Wesson, J.** & Burns, T. Cognitive Performance Test. In T. J. Wolf, Edwards, D.F., & Giles, G. M. (Ed.), *Functional Cognition and Occupational Therapy. A Practical Approach to Treating Individuals with Cognitive Loss* (pp. 141 -150). Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. https://myaota.aota.org/shop_aota/product/900477U

PUBLICATIONS – PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- 2022 Bell, S. B., Bhat, R., Brennan, S., Clark, M., Corlis, M....**Wesson, J.** (Guideline Development Group). *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications in People Living with Dementia and in Residential Aged Care*. Parkville: Monash University.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International

- 2026 **Wesson, J.**, Giles, G., Foster, E., Fleming, Lannin, N., ...Toglia, J. Functional cognition: conceptual analysis of the literature in occupational therapy. World Federation Occupational Therapy Congress. Bangkok, Thailand, 9 Feb. Accepted oral presentation.
- 2026 **Wesson, J.**, Reppermund, S., Numbers, K., Brodaty, H. Functional cognition screening to detect subtle functional difficulties in everyday activities in older adults: which tool is fit for purpose? World Federation Occupational Therapy Congress. Bangkok, Thailand, 9 Feb. Accepted lightning oral presentation.
- 2024 **Wesson, J.**, Wales, K., Hewitt, J., Flavin, T. M., Gresham, M. D., Tan, A., & Brodaty, H. *Behaviour support planning in residential aged care-pilot to explore implementation of new legislation in Australia*. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, 20, e084214. Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Philadelphia, USA. 30 July. Oral

- 2024 Watson, K., Cross, A., Jokanovic, N., **Wesson, J.**, Lo, J., Gnjjidic, D., & Sawan, M. J. *Dementia Care Research and Psychosocial Factors*. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: the journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, 20, e085810. 30 July. Poster
- 2024 Laver, K., Low, L-F., Callisaya, M. & **Wesson, J.** *How to prescribe interventions for a healthy body and mind after a diagnosis of dementia*. International Society of Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine, Sydney, Australia. Workshop, 2 June. Workshop
- 2023 Reppermund, S., Numbers, K. T., Lin, P., Delbaere, K., **Wesson, J.**, Clemson, L., Ginige, J. A., Trollor, J. N., Draper, B., & Brodaty, H. Development of an innovative computerized assessment of instrumental activities of daily living. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, 19(S22), n/a. <https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.071164>. Poster

National

- 2025 **Wesson, J.**, Wales, K., Hewitt, J., Flavin, T. M., Gresham, M. D., Tan, A., & Brodaty, H. Positive behaviour support in residential aged care: where are we at? OT Australia National Conference, Adelaide, 25 July. Lighting oral.
- 2025 **Wesson, J.**, Wales, K., Hewitt, J., Flavin, T. M., Gresham, M. D., Tan, A., & Brodaty, H. Staff perspectives on behaviour support: exploring practices and implementation in residential care. Australian Dementia Research Forum, Perth, Australia. 3 June. Poster
- 2025 Gomes, F., Scanlan, J., Cusick, A. and **Wesson, J.** Functional cognitive tools and clinical utility with older adults in Emergency Departments OT Australia National Conference, Adelaide, 25 July. Oral
- 2025 Bin-Juwair, A., Cusick, A. and **Wesson, J.** Functional cognition and occupational therapy neurorehabilitation in Arabic-speaking populations: a scoping review. OT Australia National Conference, Adelaide, 25 July. Poster
- 2025 Lin, P-S., Numbers, K., Tanvir, M., Nguyen, K., **Wesson, J.**, Delbaere, K., Clemson, L. et al. Pilot Study of a Computerised Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) Assessment. OT Australia National Conference, Adelaide, 25 July. Poster
- 2024 Chan, H.T., Day, S. & **Wesson, J.** *Exploring behaviour support plans in aged care: resident and informal carer perspectives* Australian Association of Gerontology, Hobart, Australia. Oral
- 2024 **Wesson, J.**, Wales, K., Hewitt, J., Flavin, T. M., Gresham, M. D., Tan, A., & Brodaty, H. *What behaviours, and what strategies? An exploration of behaviour support plans in residential aged care*. Australian Dementia Research Forum, Gold Coast, Australia. 4 June. Oral
- 2021 **Wesson, J.**, Chenoweth, L. & Brodaty, H. *Maybo training to improve staff response to aggression in residential care*. Australian Association of Gerontology, Gold Coast. 12 November. Oral
- 2019 **Wesson, J.**, Clemson, L., Koch, C., Zelma, G., Taylor, M. & Close, J. *The iFOCIS Study - Reducing Falls in People with Cognitive Impairment: Functional Cognition & Adherence to Home Hazard Reduction*. OT Australia Conference, Sydney, 10 July. Oral
- 2017 **Wesson, J.**, Clemson, L., Brodaty, H., & Reppermund, S. *Functional Cognition in Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment or Mild Dementia: Validity of the Large Allen's Cognitive Levels Screen (Version 5)*. OT Australia Conference, Perth, 19-21 July. Oral

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE (LAST 3 YEARS)

- PhD supervision (6 HDR students) and OT honours supervision, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology
- OCCP3105 (Functional) Cognitive Ability and Occupational Performance (Undergraduate, new unit)

- OCCP3102 Using and Generating Evidence in OT (Undergraduate)
- OCCP5241 Evaluation of OT Practice (Masters OT)
- OCCP5258 Introduction to the OT Practice Process (Masters OT)
- Physiotherapy invited lecture (DPT, dementia)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (RECENT)

- 2025 Functional cognition and falls management in people with Parkinson's disease workshop, Hornsby Hospital, 19 September
- 2025 OT Australia Practice Spotlight: Partnering with Carers: Using a functional cognitive approach in Dementia, 12 September
- 2025 Wesson, J. Kidd, J., Westra, E. and Houston, J. Aggression or anxiety? The language that builds cultures. Invited Panel. Aged Care Dementia Conference, Avenedge, Sydney 11 November
- 2025 Wesson, J. What behaviours & what strategies? An exploration of behaviour support plans in residential aged care. NSW Sub-Committee of Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age Education Day. 28 March
- 2024 OT Australia Practice Spotlight: Occupational Therapy Essentials When Assessing Functional Cognition in Older Adults Webinar, 4 December
- 2024 OT Australia Practice Spotlight: Functional Cognition Explained Webinar, 21 August
- 2020 DCRC. Changed Behaviours and psychological symptoms associated with dementia National Symposium. Challenges and successes with dementia care in residential settings
- 2019 NSW Supported Decision Making Community of Practice – NSW Department of Justice, OPG. Supported Decision-Making & Functional Cognition in Residential Care Case Study

RECENT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025 -	OT Australia Expert Group Allied Health Needs Assessment Tool	Advice & piloting development of allied health referral protocol: residential care
2024 -	International Steering Group: Functional Cognition	Invited role (n=6) with professors. Conduct conceptual analysis.
2024 -	U21 International Dementia Research Network	Facilitating international dementia research collaborations
2023 -	MEGA-MAC Expert Advisory Group: national residential care quality indicators	Advice re medication issues for people with dementia in residential aged care
2022 - 2023	(National) Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA)	Meaningful Lifestyle Activities Evidence Advisory Group
2022 - 2025	Sydney Dementia Network (University of Sydney)	Executive Committee member as ECR
2022 -	ADNeT (Australian National Dementia Network) EMCR Accelerator Group	Executive Committee member as ECR, coordinate national sponsorship program
2022 -	OT Australia Aged Care National Reference Group	Advice on OT issues in aged care sector including dementia & residential care
2022 -	OT Australia National Dementia Special Interest Group	In-augural and current co-chair

EMPLOYMENT

- Nov 2021 – Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney (0.4FTE research)
- 2018 – 2021 Dementia Consultant & Research Fellow, Montefiore Residential Care
- 2016 - 2018 Senior Policy Officer, Older People's Mental Health Policy Unit, Ministry of Health NSW/ Western NSW LHD

2014 – 2017	Occupational Therapy Consultant (part-time), Falls Prevention for People with Dementia (iFOCIS NHMRC research project)
2016 - 1995	Senior clinical occupational therapy roles including Aged Care Psychiatry Service/ Memory Disorders Clinic (15 years) and specialist seating clinic, Southeast Sydney Local Health District
1988 - 1995	Clinical occupational therapy roles including neurology rehabilitation, general medical, community, acute adult mental health, Sydney & Scotland
1987 – 1988	Group Home Manager/ Residential Care Worker, Developmental Disability Services, Inner Western Suburbs Area Health Service, NSW