



Public consultation- Draft Clinical Practice Guidelines for Dementia in Australia

The first guidelines on the diagnosis and management of dementia in Australia have been released for public consultation.

Approximately one in 10 Australians aged 65 and over have a diagnosis of dementia. With an ageing Australian population and the number of people with dementia expected to increase, dementia has been named as a National Health Priority Area.

The NHMRC Partnership on Dealing with Dementia and Related Functional Decline in Older People (CDPC) has developed the Draft Clinical Practice Guidelines for Dementia in Australia in consultation with an expert multi-disciplinary Guideline Adaptation Committee convened by the CDPC.

“There are no NHMRC endorsed guidelines for dementia in existence. This is a common clinical condition and these guidelines will assist in informing our response to dementia, and improving quality of care for people with dementia and their carers,” says Professor Kurrle, Director of the CDPC.

Intended for use by general practitioners, general practice nurses, primary care health professionals and allied health professionals, the guidelines provide health professionals the information to respond appropriately to the needs and preferences of the person living with dementia.

Key recommendations include medication management of cognitive symptoms of dementia and communicating with the person with dementia, their carers and families about disease progression, treatments and services offered by Alzheimer’s Australia.

The importance of support and education for health professionals, carers and families is also outlined in the guidelines. It recommends that carers should be offered education and training to better manage the symptoms of dementia, be offered respite when needed and information about coping strategies to maintain their own wellbeing, overall health and fitness.

“Clinicians and consumers are looking forward to the release of the guidelines as they will provide guidance and information on a wide range of issues associated with dementia,” says Professor Kurrle.

This is an invitation to you or your organisation to comment on the Draft Clinical Practice Guidelines for Dementia in Australia.

If you would like to make a submission please provide your comments in the submission form at <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/cdpc/dementia-guidelines.php>.

Written submissions can be sent to dementia.guidelines@flinders.edu.au. Public consultation closes on 15 May 2015 at 5:00pm AEST.

Further information:

Contact: Kate Laver ph:+61 8 8276 9666 (extension 52310)

Media contact: Sally Grosvenor

E: sms.cdpc@sydney.edu.au

P: +61 410682199