CDPC announces additional funding to improve care for people with dementia in Australia

A key factor that influences whether project results are translated into practice is the availability of specified funding to support the process. In recognition of this the CDPC announced remaining funds from the CDPC’s five year term should be directed towards further translation of CDPC research findings that will make a real impact for people with dementia and their carers.

The Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre put out a call to all CDPC project teams early in April 2017 requesting submissions for additional funds allocation. Applications were reviewed against the CDPC strategy, objectives and nine impact statements by a select committee involving researchers, consumers, industry partners and Executive and Governance members. As a result, an additional $409,829.00 has been granted to CDPC Activity teams.

The support will help the development of specifically designed and readily accessible information for people with dementia, an education tool to raise awareness of the needs of families living with Younger Onset Dementia, and greater access to evidence-based data through open access publications.
New resources online for community, aged & health care staff to plan ahead

Following initial research, new resources were developed with consumer and industry input to support future planning and advance care planning for people with dementia. The resources are available on the CDPC webpage, Advance Care Planning and Alzheimer’s Australia, Start2Talk.

These online resources assist community, aged and health care staff to make informed advanced planning for people in their care, particularly for those in the early stages of dementia.

Aged care regulation

The final report of the project “The role and effects of regulation on aged care services for older people with cognitive decline” examines the Australian aged care regulatory system, its features, role and effects, and how it functions at the system, organisation and practise-based levels.

The research mapped the role of the stakeholders in aged and dementia care collecting data from 27 individuals across five stakeholder groups, gathering empirical research from three provider organisations and interviews with 60 of their staff.

The Commonwealth, state and local governments provide a key role in regulation of dementia and aged care services primarily through legislation of care and responsibilities. Aged care providers interpret the legislation through daily work practices such as organisational policies, processes and procedures for staff.

Regulation is essential for monitoring both the effectiveness of tax revenue expenditure and the effectiveness of aged care services that are delivered in a complex mixed care model. Consequently it is an important area for both public policy and the provision of a framework for monitoring and enforcement of care standards.

The project produced a separate Policy and Recommendations paper with recommendations on improving regulation, policy and practice to facilitate quality care for people with cognitive decline.
**Quality Collaborative & online training**

The new project, “Agents of Change”: Improving post diagnosis care for people with dementia and their carers through the establishment of a National Quality Collaborative to implement guideline recommendations aims to establish a National Quality Collaborative to increase adherence and engagement with recommended guidelines and an online training course.

The online training course would be designed for providers of care and services for people with dementia to facilitate dissemination of the latest evidence-base on dementia care. The online training course for dementia care clinicians will offer improved knowledge and skills in quality improvement and implementation in implementation clinicians, collaborative formation which will bring together clinicians across Australia.

Consumers have identified a National Quality Collaborative to implement recommended guidelines as being highly beneficial in implementing and sustaining sustain improvements in post diagnosis care for people living with dementia and their carers.

Outputs of the project will be distributed to a wide variety of audiences, through social media and other modes of communication, to increase public awareness of the National Quality Collaborative and the online training course.

**Free Education toolkit available**

An online toolkit provides aged care managers and administrators with the first comprehensive guide for implementing an interprofessional education (IPE) program for students and staff at their facility.

Interprofessional education for aged care workers has shown to increase support and social contact for residents, increase knowledge and capacity of staff and students as well as increasing positive perceptions of working in aged care.

The IPEAC Toolkit ('Interprofessional Education in Aged Care Toolkit') was developed by CDPC funding partners Brightwater Care Group in Perth and Helping Hand in Adelaide, following a CDPC funded project evaluating the benefits of IPE programs run within these organisations over several years.

**Reablement guide**

A new CDPC project aims to produce a publication, “CDPC Practice Handbook for Reablement Interventions for People with Dementia”, through collating current evidence on reablement care strategies for people with mild and moderate dementia.

The project will provide evidence on the use of reablement for people with dementia, which is currently not available. This will provide an evidence-base for service models that operationalise reablement strategies to potentially delay the onset of functional decline, or improve functioning and quality of life for people living with dementia.

A mixed methods qualitative research will be used to gather an evidence-base of recommendations for dementia reablement strategies and provide recommendations on government policy and guidelines on reablement.

**Pain management**

The CDPC project, “Multi-disciplinary collaboration to support the implementation of best practice pain management for older people living with dementia: A participatory action research study in Australian Residential Aged Care Services” recently commenced.

The project will use participatory action research to gather evidence on pain management strategies used by multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) to gather best practice strategies and to produce a clinical practice guideline. It will produce a MDT Pain Management Model to facilitate implementing best practice pain management for people living with dementia in residential aged care.

**Technologies to improve interactions**

A recently released report of a CDPC funded project investigating the use of a socialisation robot to enhance resident social engagement and staff attitudes found it has the potential to reduce residents' feelings of social isolation.

In one-on-one interviews, residents described feelings of ‘companionship’ and ‘company’ and although both staff and residents identified some barriers, primarily due to the technology, they believed Zorabot to be a useful tool to help increase social engagement in the aged care environment.
PUBLICATIONS


