



The EoL Dementia Care E Learning Resource

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DTSC

- Education
Including
eLearning
- Resources
- PD events
- For health
professionals

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Dementia Training Study Centres website. At the top left is the logo for Dementia Training Study Centres, which consists of a stylized flower icon with four petals in blue, green, and red, followed by the text 'DEMENTIA TRAINING STUDY CENTRES'. To the right of the logo is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search our website...' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with the following items: Home (house icon), About Us, News, Events, eLearning, Resources, Subscribe, and FAQ. The main content area features a large image of an elderly man and a woman in a light blue uniform smiling and talking. To the right of the image is the heading 'Welcome to the Dementia Training Study Centres' and a paragraph of text: 'Funded by the Australian Government, the Dementia Training Study Centres aim to improve the quality of care and support provided to people living with dementia and their families.' Below this text is a red button with the text 'Learn more about us'. At the bottom of the page, there are three columns of content. The first column is titled 'Latest News' and contains two items: 'National Dementia Essay Competition' dated JUN 25 and 'Have you seen the new BPSD Quick Reference Cards?' dated JUN 18. The second column is titled 'Upcoming Events' and contains one item: 'Hierarchic Dementia Scale-Revised (HDS-R) Train the Trainer Workshop - Geraldton' dated AUG 18, with a location tag for 'Geraldton, Western Australia'. The third column contains two items: 'Australian Journal of Dementia Care' with a red arrow icon and the text 'Vital information for all professional staff working with people with dementia.', and 'Latest Survey' with a red arrow icon and the text 'Have your say in dementia related surveys'.



Dementia - definition

Dementia causes progressive cognitive impairment, affecting memory, judgment, language and everyday tasks.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia.



(Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care 2015)



Key Facts - Dementia

- More than 342,800 Australians living with dementia
- Increase to 400,000 in < ten years
- Second leading cause of death in Australia
- 25,100 people with Younger Onset Dementia
- 3/10 people > 85 & 1/10 people > 65 have dementia
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people rate of dementia 3-5 times higher than general population

(Alzheimer's Australia 2015, *Key Facts & Statistics*)



Key Facts - Impact



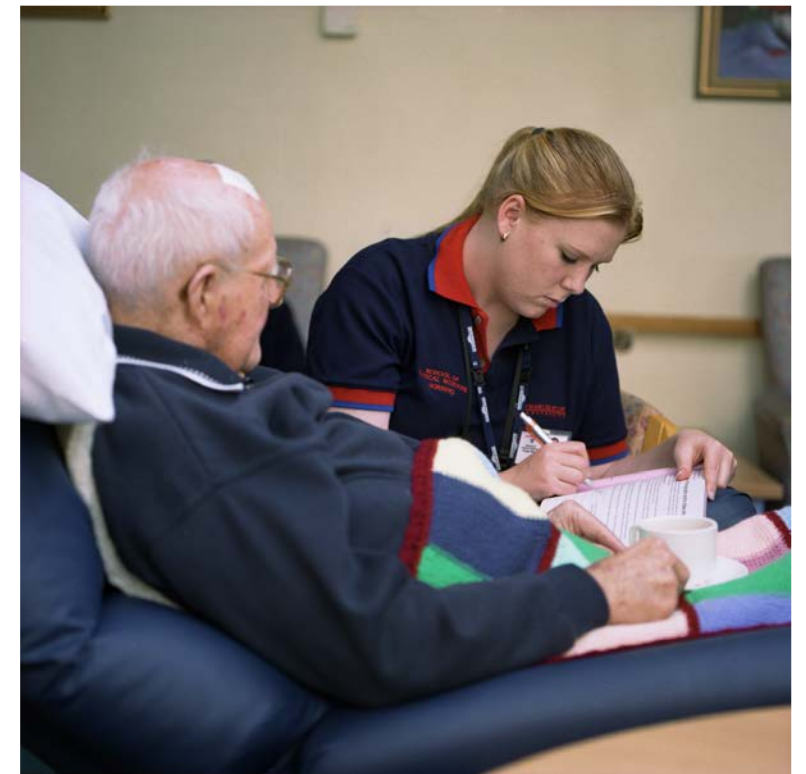
- Single greatest cause of disability in older Australians
- By 2060 spending on dementia set to outstrip any other health condition

(Alzheimer's Australia 2015, *Key Facts & Statistics*)



Key Facts - Hospitals

- 2 x risk of falls, pressure injuries & infection
- 6 x risk of developing delirium
- 2 x more likely to die in hospital
- 2 x more likely to be readmitted



(Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care 2015)



Key Facts - Hospitals

80% clinical staff reported difficulty working with patients with cognitive impairment [50% reported problems with carer of patient] (Foreman & Gardner 2007)





The Project

- Project funded from July 2014 – June 2016
- Initially review WA DTSC product - *End of Life Dementia Care (A Palliative Approach). A Guide for Practice Improvement in Residential Aged Care Facilities*
- Creation of package for individual health professionals best practice in EoL care for people with dementia

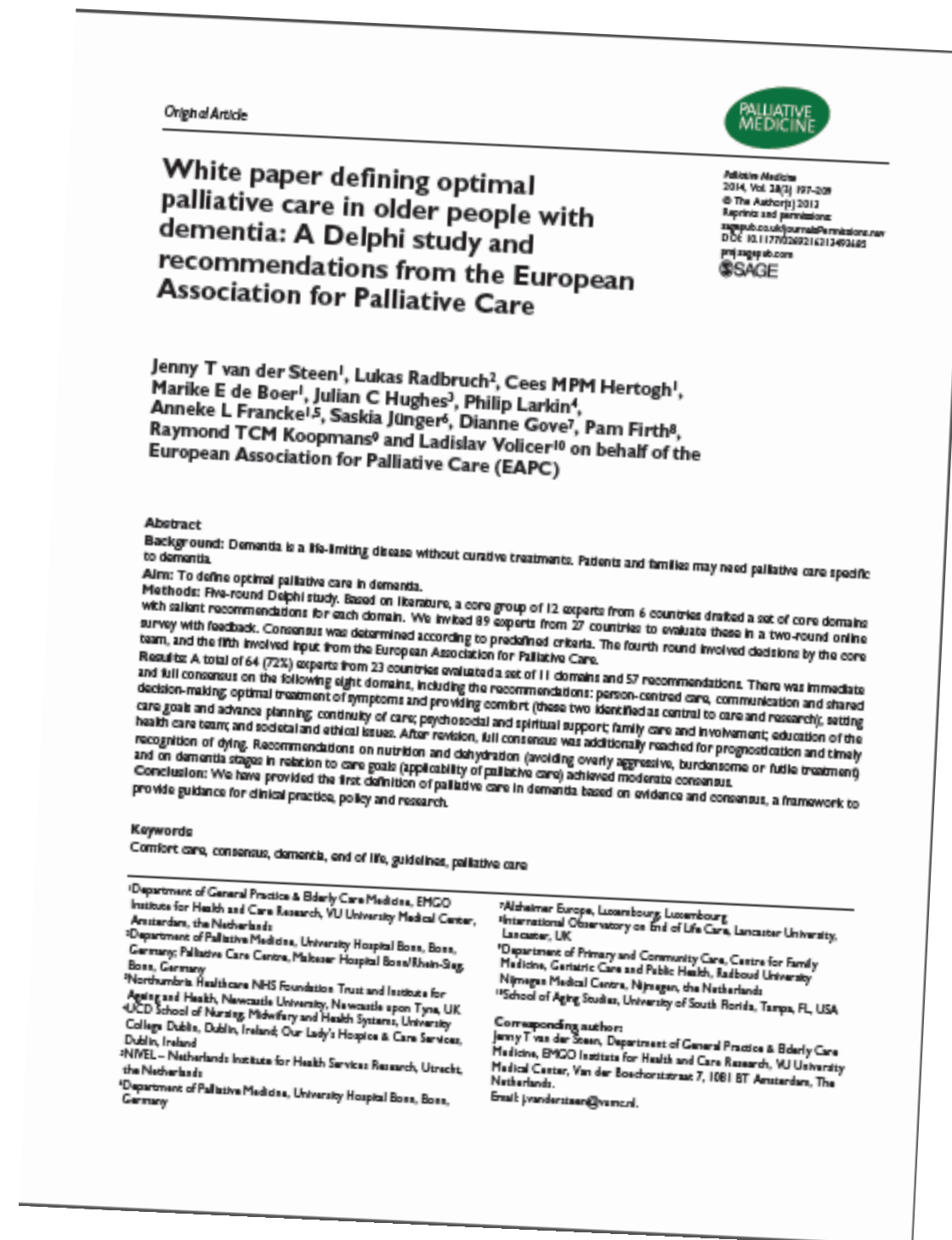


Recurrent themes in literature review

- Lack of understanding that dementia is a life limiting disease
- Prognosis in advanced dementia difficult to predict
- More intrusive and burdensome interventions
- Poorer diagnosis & treatment of pain
- Early advance care planning
- Efficacy of use of antibiotics/ feeding tubes
- Ad hoc undergraduate health profession education



- First definition of palliative care in dementia based on evidence and consensus
- A framework to provide guidance for clinical practice, policy and research
- 11 domains – 52 recommendations
- Used as framework for e learning training package





5 Modules

- Introduction to palliative care and dementia
- Person centred care, communication and advance care planning
- Prognosis, setting care goals & continuity of care
- Avoiding burdensome or futile treatments & optimal symptom treatment
- Psychosocial support for the person with Advanced Dementia, carers, family and health professionals





Process

- Modules drafted with content, AV, readings, activities, personal reflections & quizzes
- Reviewed with input from dementia educators, specialists in particular areas, consumers
- Moodle platform - online
- Broader review by key stakeholders
- Pilot & revision
- Available free on Dementia Training Study Centre website by early 2016



The last word

‘Above all please remember that we are all individual human beings. We have dementia, and you can’t see the damage, so you don’t know what it is like. Don’t assume too much. Take us at face value, as a person, first and foremost, not a disease. Then help us to keep achieving to our full potential.’ Christine Bryden

Bryden C 2005, *Dancing with dementia: my story of living positively with dementia*, p127.