



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

# COMMUNITY NURSING NEWSLETTER No. 57

## September 2025



This **Newsletter** is issued to promote awareness of **Dementia Action Week**, information and resources for DVA contracted Community Nursing providers.

## Dementia Action Week - 15–21 September 2025

### *“Nobody can do it alone”*

The aim of this years' Dementia Action Week (15-21 September 2025) is to challenge everyone in the community to reach out and reconnect to someone impacted by dementia because nobody can do it alone.

The campaign is designed to raise awareness for those living with dementia in Australia. Dementia has a major impact on individuals, families and communities and is a significant and growing health issue. In 2023, it was estimated that over 400,000 people were living with dementia in Australia, with this number estimated to more than double by 2058.

For more information on Dementia Action Week visit: [Dementia Action Week | Dementia Australia](#)

## National Dementia Action Plan

In late 2024, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing released the National Dementia Action Plan 2024–2034 (the Action Plan), Australia's national dementia policy framework. The Action Plan is a 10-year roadmap to keep improving the lives and care of people with dementia. Australian, state and territory governments are committed to working together with people living with dementia, their carer and families, service providers, advocates, peak bodies and other organisations to implement the Action Plan.

The Action Plan aims to improve the lives and care of people living with dementia, their carers and families and is the result of extensive research, planning and consultation. It sets out specific areas where governments, health and aged care providers and the broader community can work to make life better for people with dementia and their carers and families.

For more information on the Action Plan, please go to [National Dementia Action Plan 2024–2034 | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#).

## National Dementia Support Program

The National Dementia Support Program (NDSP) offers free support and resources for people with dementia, and their carers and families. The program is delivered by Dementia Australia (funded by the Australian Government).

The NDSP assists people to understand dementia and make informed choices regarding wellbeing and available support services. These services include:

- Information and education programs
- Counselling and peer support
- Group support
- Early intervention support to manage changes and plan ahead.

Further information on the NDSP can be found on the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website: [www.health.gov.au/our-work/national-dementia-support-program-ndsp](http://www.health.gov.au/our-work/national-dementia-support-program-ndsp)

## Training and courses

*People living with dementia have specific care and support requirements. Appropriate education and training of the workforce can enhance the outcomes for these clients.*

### **Dementia Australia** – [www.dementia.org.au](http://www.dementia.org.au)

Dementia Australia provide information and resources and deliver professional development and proven training courses for organisations and individual health workers who support people living with dementia.

The courses provide a person-centred approach, informed by the experience of people impacted by dementia, latest research and practices. There are many free online courses in addition to paid and face to face options across a broad range of topics to suit all workers.

In particular, '[\*Dementia Essentials \(CHCAGE011\) Provide support to people living with dementia\*](#)', is recommended to all community nursing staff working with people living with dementia. This course is a fully funded, nationally recognised unit of competency and offers skill and strategies to help with communication, planning, developing activities and understanding changed behaviour in people living with dementia. Also available for download is a Dementia Essentials Handbook.

### **Ask Annie**

Dementia Australia have a free on-the-go dementia training app designed for care workers that includes short, practical and interactive modules. Ask Annie aims to strengthen skills in delivering support to all clients including those living with dementia. It offers a range of courses and covers topics such as planning behaviour support, elder abuse and palliative care. The app is free and available to download via the Dementia Australia website: [www.dementia.org.au/professionals/professional-development-and-training/ask-annie-app](http://www.dementia.org.au/professionals/professional-development-and-training/ask-annie-app)

### **Tell TiNA**

A feature within Dementia Australia's Ask Annie app, Tell TiNA is a dementia training needs analysis tool to guide providers to better understand the strengths and skills gaps in workers who provide care for people living with dementia. With the free Ask Annie app, Tell TiNA can be purchased and aims to help organisations build a comprehensive dementia care training strategy for their workers.

### **Dementia Training Australia** – [www.dta.com.au](http://www.dta.com.au)

To improve the health and wellbeing of people living with dementia, Dementia Training Australia have developed a range of courses and learning pathways for workers as well as volunteers.

In addition to face to face, online and webinar-based training courses, they have developed a National Dementia Education and Training Standards Framework (NDETSF). By using the Dementia Training Action plan, you can assess your dementia knowledge and skills based on the domains and tiers within the NDETSF.

## Dementia respite care training

Free online training is available for all aged care workers to improve dementia respite care in residential aged care, community and in-home care settings.

The Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring (DREAM) program offers free training and coaching to help workers confidently deliver compassionate and evidence-based respite care.

Find out more about the [DREAM program](#).

*\*Note: While the Community Nursing Program does not fund in-home respite care, these services may be available for clients through the Veterans' Home Care (VHC) Program.*

## Contacts and resources

### **Dementia Australia - [www.dementia.org.au](http://www.dementia.org.au)**

Dementia Australia provides free information, resources and a range of supports for anyone with an interest in dementia.

### **National Dementia Helpline – 1800 100 500**

The National Dementia Helpline is a free confidential phone and email information and support service operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

The helpline is available for anyone to call, including Community Nursing provider staff. The helpline can assist in sourcing appropriate support options including guidance on respite options.

### **Library Service - [www.dementia.org.au/library](http://www.dementia.org.au/library)**

The Dementia Australia library is Australia's largest free and publicly accessible dementia library. It provides free access to a wide range of print and digital resources available to anyone. The resources are aimed at not only people working in dementia, but people living with dementia and their families and friends.

### **Podcasts – [www.dementia.org.au/living-dementia/hold-moment-podcast](http://www.dementia.org.au/living-dementia/hold-moment-podcast)**

[Hold the moment](http://www.dementia.org.au/living-dementia/hold-moment-podcast) are podcasts from Dementia Australia that share uplifting stories about people living with dementia and their loved ones.

## Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Program 2025 - 2027

The Aged Care Nursing Scholarships Program is funded by the Australian Government and administered by the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners. It provides the opportunity for aged care workers to complete formal qualifications in aged care nursing.

The program also provides registered and enrolled nurses with training to develop their leadership skills and experience to progress their nursing careers in aged care. This can include dementia specific training.

Aged Care workers interested in applying for a scholarship can find further information at

[www.acnp.org.au/ansp](http://www.acnp.org.au/ansp)