



An Australian Government Initiative



TRAINING,
INNOVATION,
MENTORING, AND
EDUCATION

for dementia

THE VICTORIAN AND TASMANIAN DEMENTIA STUDY CENTRE

Dementia Training Study Centres

TIME for dementia 19th December 2008



Dear all,
Welcome to the TIME for dementia news update. As the year draws to a close we can reflect on the progress made by TIME for dementia during 2008. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for TIME for dementia and to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2009.

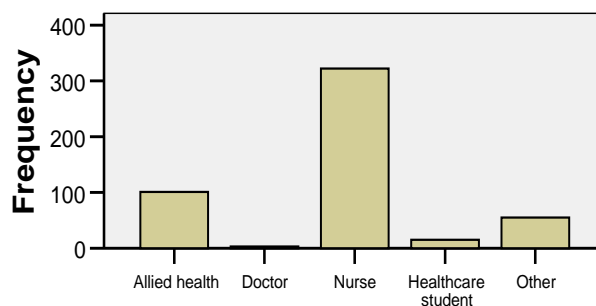
Professor Rhonda Nay
Director
TIME for dementia

Participation

Participation is growing steadily and we currently have 562 health professionals and healthcare students registered and accessing the modules. We have demographic data for 500 of these and, as the graph below shows nursing and allied health make up the majority of participants with the third largest group describing themselves as 'other'. These participants all work in Aged Care so we assume they are Care Assistants or non-care staff in residential care. The second graph shows that although Aged Care is the most represented area of practice acute care, community care and sub-acute/rehabilitation are well represented.

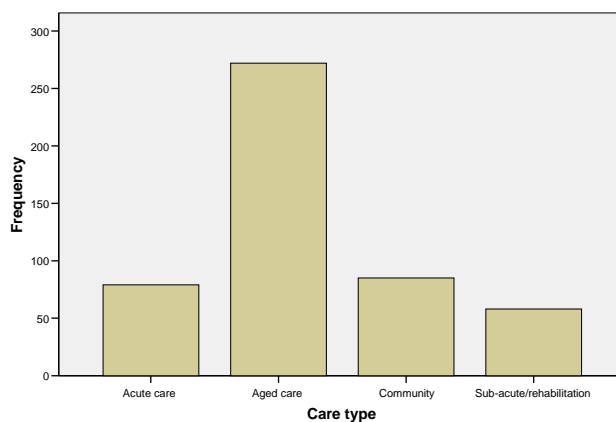


Occupation



Occupation

Care type



Core education module

The core modules have been available online to all registered users since May. You may have noticed on the website that we have changed the wording around the education components. The core content is now referred to as an education program comprising ten separate modules. We have removed the term session. This was done to reflect the depth and extent of the content. We are in the process of organising for the paper-based manual to be printed and bound but are

able to provide an interim office printed copy to those participants preferring a hard copy of the material. If anyone would like a hard copy please contact *TIME for dementia* and we will arrange to have one mailed out to you.

We have received some excellent feedback from participants and the core content is being utilised in a number of post-graduate and under-graduate programs at partner universities. A number of health care agencies are also delivering education based on the *TIME for dementia* material.

I work in an orthopaedic ward and have people with dementia... After studying this I will try to be really slow and gentle with them than I was before...

(Participant on completion of core modules)

I have just discovered this fantastic site.

(Participant in on-line discussion forum)

Discipline specific modules

The discipline specific modules are in the final stages of editing and uploading onto the website. As you are aware these are being presented in the form of a case study. The case study describes the journey taken by a Mr and Mrs Williams through Alzheimer's type dementia from presentation through to palliation. The case study is presented as a series of episodes of care with links to related discipline specific content at each episode. The case study module is currently being edited and uploaded and will be available soon.

Mentorship program

As you are aware we were not sure how the mentorship program would evolve over the life of the project and it has been interesting seeing how the mentor's role is being utilised. We have had a small number of requests for formal mentor relationships; however the mentor network has proved to be invaluable in promoting *TIME* and in working with groups of health professionals across both Tasmania and

Victoria. It appears this informal education and networking approach is preferred by participants. If you are interested in being put in touch with a mentor please contact *TIME for dementia* and we will arrange this for you.

Workshops

About 250 health professionals attended the workshops held in Hobart and Bendigo in recent months, in fact we had to turn people away. Participant feedback has been fantastic. They especially welcomed the opportunity to tap into the expertise of the speakers and facilitators. We look forward to more workshops being held in the first half of next year.

Enjoyable & informative day. Relevant to current & future aged care (Participant Bendigo Workshop)

This is a great system. An integrated approach to dementia management. Thank you to all. (Participant Hobart Workshop)

On-line discussion forum

In response to requests from participants we have set up an on-line discussion forum to enable health professionals to ask questions of others and the *TIME for dementia* management team and mentor group. The forum can be accessed by registered participants from the main banner on the website home page.

Clinical placements

Just a reminder that we are able to arrange clinical placements to health professionals on request. If you are interested in clinical experience in caring for people with dementia please contact *TIME for dementia*.



Merry Christmas