**Don’t Forget About Dementia**

**WHY DEMENTIA?**

Less than half of hospital staff across Australia have received any dementia training and those trained reported that the content covered was inadequate (Alzheimer’s Australia 2014). Education based upon identified needs from pre-completed multidisciplinary staff surveys was created using varied learning platforms. The education program was delivered over the course of Dementia Awareness Month. The implementation of a diverse education program targeting dementia care is a local solution to a growing community need.

**THE PROGRAM**

- **A hospital wide Dementia Poster competition was launched with 6 departments submitting entries to win a pizza lunch generously donated by the Director of Nursing and Midwifery. The winner was voted for by staff and the public during a Dementia Morning Tea.**
- **8 Education sessions were delivered across BMDH. Local companies donated prizes used as an incentive for staff to attend and complete evaluations. Topics included About Dementia, Behavioural Psychological Symptoms of Dementia, Creating Dementia Friendly Environments, Therapeutic Activities.**
- **A Weekly display in the hospital main foyer provided relevant resources relating to education sessions, 3076 information sheets were taken by staff and visitors.**
- **Dementia toolbox kits were created with the support of our partners and delivered to 19 wards/departments with educational resources for additional self-directed learning.**
- **Diversional therapy boxes were created for patient wards to promote engagement in therapeutic activities.**

**INTO THE FUTURE...**

The education sessions have been included in the ongoing education calendar across BMDH as well as being delivered in community and carer education. It is being delivered, due to train the trainer sessions, in aged care services across WSLHD. Each year during dementia awareness month the poster competition will be repeated with previous entries displayed prior to the submission date to entice and inspire applicants.

The resources supplied during this program remain in wards and departments and are being accessed regularly. Diversional therapy resources are being used and ongoing quality improvement projects have been created stemming from the original education sessions.

All participants were emailed resources and the presentations after the sessions, this has resulted in staff delivering the education in their own settings.

Participants were also linked into ongoing dementia education opportunities such as the online dementia courses offered by WSLHD which resulted in many enrolments.

**THEY SAID...**

- ‘I liked the examples used in the presentations. This will be beneficial to both the dementia patient as well as the nurses on the ward’
- ‘Valuable information on how to deal with Dementia Clients’
- ‘Gave me a greater understanding of BPSD, the background/context ie reasons which influence behaviours and insight into how to respond and prevent these’
- ‘Giving more concise information…Simple but brilliant’
- ‘Gave me a greater understanding on how to cope with patients with dementia by applying therapeutic nursing care’.

**LEVEL OF DEMENTIA KNOWLEDGE**

- **Very Low**
- **Low**
- **Basic**
- **High**
- **Very High**

**People with dementia have longer length of stays in hospital and are at a higher risk of adverse events such as falls and pressure areas (Alzheimer’s Australia 2014). Through providing a detailed education program that meets the identified needs of staff, better dementia care planning will be provided which reduces the risks mentioned above.**

Delivering education through varied learning styles, empowered participants to adopt high quality dementia strategies. Non-pharmacological interventions focussed on respecting the person with dementia and their needs creating better care provision and consumer involvement. Awareness of dementia increases care communication, person centered care and reduces stigma.

The implementation of a diverse education program targeting dementia care is a local solution to a growing community need.

**WHAT THEY SAID...**

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Tips for template use

This template is 118cm in width and 67cm in height, this approximates to A0 landscape sized but has been adjusted to 16:9 ration for electronic viewing.

- This is extra large text so is it is visible on screen.
- To review the size of your poster set the magnification is 100% and that will give you an indication of how your poster will look printed. Do remember to do test prints.
- Margins cannot be created in PowerPoint so when designing your poster leave a margin for printing, text at the very edge may disappear when printed.
- Try to keep the gaps between boxes the same size.
- You can move and resize any of the boxes accept for the QR code box bottom left.
- You can arrange your text boxes to best fit your content, balance is good eg using three or five columns of the same width. Take into consideration your eye reading across the page if it becomes too long it is easy to get confused as to where to read next.
- Examples are given of single text boxes and layered text boxes, layered text boxes give you more flexibility but you will need to spend time aligning them.
- Limit the number of different text sizes to four – please refer to the APAC 2016 Poster tricks and tips for more information.
- Get the content as close to final as possible before spending time and adjusting the layout – small changes in content can mean a lot of repositioning.