

Introduction

Limited evidence exists about effective models or interventions of home care to improve home care for people with dementia.

The quality of home care influences quality of life and the ability to remain independent for many people with dementia.

This project will:

- enable the implementation of dementia research into clinical practice and care
- develop and trial an evidence-based education and training program for home care workers- the "PITCH program"
- ensure increased quality of care

Our research questions:

1. How are people with dementia and their carers currently experiencing home care? How could their experience be improved?
2. What are the main elements to be included in the PITCH program to effect a highly skilled, knowledgeable and empathic workforce delivering home care support services?
3. Is PITCH effective in improving outcomes for people with dementia and family carers?
4. Is PITCH cost effective?

Home Care Partners (so far)



Research Partners



Aims

1. To improve outcomes for people with dementia and their paid and family carers
2. Develop and test an evidence-based dementia specialist training program for community dementia care that can be delivered by front-line home care workers

Contact us

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Project Design

STAGE ONE CO-DESIGNING THE PROGRAM

1. Review of literature and existing interventions
2. Qualitative study to better understand the current experiences of people with dementia, their carers and home care workers regarding home care provided through the Australian government:
3. Co-design workshops to develop the PITCH program with people with dementia, family carers, home care workers, case managers, service managers, and members of the Project Advisory Group
4. Development of training and education materials

STAGE TWO EVALUATION STUDY

- Evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of the PITCH program developed in Stage 1

STAGE THREE RCT & ECONOMIC EVALUATION

- PITCH program will be evaluated as part of a randomised controlled trial with our partner home care providers
- Pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster RCT will be adopted with clusters defined by service region
- Participants: 252 home care clients and their family carer, their paid home care worker/s, and the home care case manager
- Outcome measures: PITCH's impact on both care recipient outcomes (independence, wellbeing, and quality of life) and carer (both paid and unpaid) outcomes (burden of care, resilience and service satisfaction)
- Cost effectiveness will be evaluated

Project Team

NARI - Briony Dow, Colleen Doyle, Anita Panayiotou, Frances Batchelor, Anne Fairhall, David Ames, Steven Savvas, Sue Malta, Marcia Fearn & Anita M Y Goh
LaTrobe University - Margaret Winbolt
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Alzheimer's Australia WA - Jason Burton
University of Sydney - Lee-Fay Low
Royal Freemasons - Sam Scherer
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Outcomes

The PITCH program will:

- directly benefit people with dementia and their carers by up-skilling home-care workers to provide care that promotes independence, improves quality of life and reduces family carers' burden
- give home care workers the skills and confidence to deliver high quality, person-centred services