

Having trouble reading this? [View it in your browser](#). Not interested? [Unsubscribe](#) instantly.



**AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION  
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE**

## **Caring for Cognitive Impairment**

Newsletter No 3

### **In this issue**

[Caring for Cognitive Impairment](#)  
[The Cognitive and Delirium Care in Hospital project](#)  
[At the launch](#)  
[New webinar, save the date - 14 December 2016](#)  
[Appropriateness of care](#)  
[Share your story](#)  
[So many hospital visits: A carer's story](#)  
[Supporters](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Resources](#)  
[Feedback](#)

### **Forward to a friend**

Know someone who might be interested in the email? Why not [forward this email](#) to them.

### **Unsubscribe**

Don't want to receive these emails anymore? You can [unsubscribe](#) instantly.

---

## **Caring for Cognitive Impairment**

New supporters of our Caring for Cognitive Impairment campaign have joined a community of individuals, health service organisations and hospitals that are committed to providing high-quality care for people with cognitive impairment.

The Commission's role is to lead and coordinate national improvements in the safety and quality of health care, including raising awareness of cognitive impairment as an important safety and quality issue. But we couldn't do it without the support and dedication of all the nurses, doctors, health professionals, carers and other individuals who have committed to the campaign.

---

The Commission has included specific actions to address cognitive impairment in draft version 2 of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. Version 2 of the NSQHS Standards, once approved by health ministers, will be launched in 2017, with assessment to start in January 2019. The campaign website has information and resources to help you prepare.

I recently hosted an excellent roundtable at the Commission with an array of experts who talked about reducing the use of antipsychotics for people with dementia. In the next newsletter, I'll outline the strategies the Commission and its partners can undertake to progress the priorities identified on the day.

In this newsletter we highlight the Top End Health Service's Cognitive and Delirium Care in Hospital launch; release the details of our next webinar; showcase the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine's work in geriatric emergency medicine; and feature a carer story and a number of new resources.

We are keen to receive your feedback on the campaign and would value ideas on how we can further enhance the campaign website. You will find details of how to provide feedback in this newsletter.

By encouraging others to commit to the Caring for Cognitive Impairment campaign, together we can raise awareness and continue to improve care for patients with cognitive impairment and their families.

Regards,  
**Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AM**

[Back to top](#)

---

## **The Cognitive and Delirium Care in Hospital project**

Representatives of the Commission were delighted to attend the launch of the Top End Health Service's Cognitive and Delirium Care in Hospital project in September 2016.

The project aims to improve safety and quality of care for vulnerable patients through improved care pathways, protocols and guidelines, and increased education and training for hospital staff.

---

The project is a great example of how a health service can tailor a Caring for Cognitive Impairment initiative for a unique local population and provide other health services with the opportunity to learn from their initiative.



Image, left to right: Anne Cumming, Principal Advisor Cognitive Impairment at the Commission; Amin Islam, Top End Health Service Board Member; and Bilawara Lee, Larrakia Elder-Academic in Residence Charles Darwin University at the launch.

[Back to top](#)

---

---

## At the launch



The Principal Investigator of the project, Deidre Widdall, Cognitive Care Project Officer, Top End Health Service and member of the Commission's Cognitive Impairment Advisory Group at the launch.

[Back to top](#)

---

## New webinar, save the date - 14 December 2016

Our next webinar, to be held on 14 December 2016, will feature a renowned expert in delirium care, Professor Gideon Caplan, on the importance of identifying delirium and what we can do to prevent it in hospital.

**Be Alert to Delirium** will explain what delirium is, its risks, how to diagnose it, and how to prevent it. The webinar will also cover the experience of delirium and the importance of talking with patients and families. The Commission's work, including the *Delirium Clinical Care Standard*, will also be outlined.

**Topic:** Be Alert to Delirium

**Date:** Tuesday, 14 December 2016

**Time:** 3pm to 4pm (AEDT)

**Venue:** Webinar will be broadcast across Australia

**Presenters:**

**Professor Gideon Caplan**, Geriatrician, President, Australasian Delirium Association

---

**Ms Anne Cumming**, Principal Advisor, Cognitive Impairment, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

[Download webinar flyer.](#)

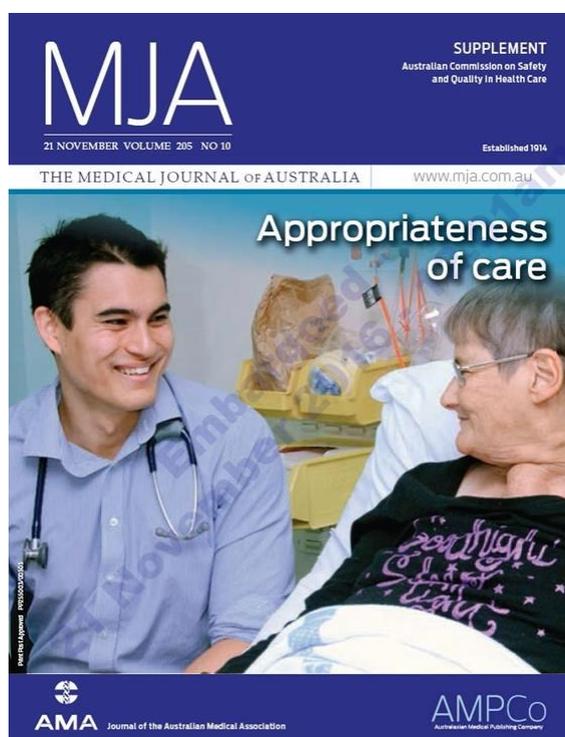
[More information and to register for this event.](#)

Our first two webinars, **All about Caring for Cognitive Impairment**, and **Getting started: Lessons from the field**, can be viewed from the [Caring for Cognitive Impairment website](#).

[Back to top](#)

---

## Appropriateness of care



The Commission coordinated a series of articles on improving the quality and appropriateness of health care in a newly-released [Medical Journal of Australia supplement](#), *Appropriateness of care*.

An article in the supplement, [Appropriate care for older people with cognitive impairment in hospital](#), highlights appropriate care for patients with delirium and illustrates three case scenarios on delirium.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Share your story

The [Caring for Cognitive Impairment website](#) features a number of stories from carers that provide insight into what makes a positive difference to the hospital experience.

We also welcome case studies from health service managers, clinicians and care support staff in hospitals highlighting how you have been able to improve the experience for people with cognitive impairment in hospital. If you work in primary, community and residential care, we would love to hear about the ways we can improve transitions to and from hospital.

[Back to top](#)

---

## So many hospital visits: A carer's story

Janice's 87 year old husband, Fred, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease over five years ago. In addition to heart problems, which leave him feeling lethargic, Fred's hearing is below average which makes communication challenging. Janice shares their experiences in hospital and strategies that could make a positive difference.

[Read more of Janice and Fred's story.](#)

[Back to top](#)

---

## Supporters

In every newsletter, we showcase a supporting organisation and the work they are doing to raise awareness of cognitive impairment as an important safety and quality issue.

### Improving care for older people – The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

Up to 50% of older people attending emergency departments (EDs) have cognitive impairment. The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM), as the peak professional organisation for emergency medicine in Australia, has a vital interest in ensuring the highest standards of



---

care in EDs are maintained for all patients. In recognition that EDs can be difficult and stimulating environments for older people and their carers, ACEM has a [geriatric emergency medicine special interest group \(GEMSIG\)](#) dedicated to representing the needs of older people.

Recent activities of GEMSIG members, supported by ACEM, highlight the breadth of work being undertaken to improve the medical care and experiences of people living with cognitive impairment and their carers in EDs. Working with universities, industry and government bodies, other medical colleges and consumers, GEMSIG and its membership have:

- Revised [ACEM](#) policy for the care of older people in the ED with specific reference to cognitive care
- Developed and successfully run educational workshops for emergency physicians and trainees on delirium at ACEM scientific meetings
- Commenced a series of articles on acute geriatric care for the ACEM journal, Emergency Medicine Australasia, with the first article devoted to [delirium in the ED](#)
- Assisted in the publication of [Structural and Process Quality Indicators](#) for the care of people with cognitive impairment in EDs
- Attracted nationally competitive research funding to support further academic work to improve emergency care of cognitively-impaired older people.

At a local level, many EDs across Australia are implementing exciting quality improvement initiatives in recognition of the unique needs of the cognitively impaired in our system.

GEMSIG welcomes feedback and comment at [gemsig@acem.org.au](mailto:gemsig@acem.org.au).

Image: A/Prof Glenn Arendts, Chair of ACEM GEMSIG and member of the Commission's Cognitive Impairment Advisory Group

[Back to top](#)

---

## Events

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners has an upcoming event relating to Caring for Cognitive Impairment:

### National event

[The ACNP conference for nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses.](#)

Date: 4 to 7 September 2017

Location: Brisbane, QLD

[Back to top](#)

---

## Resources



The Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre has released important evidence-based guidance for clinicians and care workers in primary care, aged care and hospitals on how to better respond to the needs and preferences of a person living with dementia.

*[Clinical practice guidelines and principles of care for people with dementia: Recommendations.](#)*

Approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the guidelines contain 109 recommendations – 29 are evidence-based recommendations, seven are classified as consensus-based recommendations and 73 are practice points.

An accompanying *[Consumer Companion Guide](#)* enables people with dementia and their carers to be fully informed about what kind of care and treatment to expect.

The Allies in Dementia Health Care project, a joint initiative of Alzheimer's Australia and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, has developed resources that provide an overview of the important role of allied health in supporting people with dementia.

Consumer guide: *[Allied health professionals and you: a guide for people living with dementia and their carers.](#)*

Health professionals' guide: *[Better health for people living with dementia: a guide for health professionals.](#)*

Image: Dr Kate Laver presenting at the Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre Consumer Guide Launch, Parliament House Canberra

*[Back to top](#)*

---

---

## Feedback

We would like your feedback to help us better understand what resources and materials you would like to see on the Caring for Cognitive Impairment campaign website.

[Please click to take a short survey.](#)

[Back to top](#)

---

Follow us



Contact Us t: 02 9126 3600 e: [mail@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:mail@safetyandquality.gov.au)  
[www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)