Dementia causes progressive cognitive impairment, affecting memory, judgement, language and everyday tasks. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common type of dementia.

**Dementia is a national health priority**

- 20% of patients in hospital aged over 70 have dementia
- >50% of patients in hospital aged over 90 have dementia
- 311,000+ Australians have dementia
- 550,000+ Australians will have dementia by 2030

**Patients with dementia are at greater risk of harm**

- Patients with Dementia are 2x more likely to experience falls, pressure injuries or infections in hospital...
- 6x more likely to develop delirium...
- 2x more likely to die in hospital, and...
- 2x more likely to be readmitted to hospital
- 50% of dementia episodes go undetected in hospital
- Not recognising dementia is a safety and quality issue

**We can improve hospital care of patients with dementia**

- Be alert to delirium and the risk of harm to patients with dementia
- Recognise and respond to patients with dementia
- Provide safe and high-quality care tailored to the needs of patients with dementia

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/abetterwaytocare #BetterWayToCare

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE