

# A better way to care for patients with dementia in hospital



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

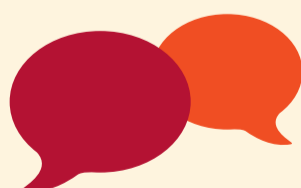


Not recognising dementia is a safety and quality issue

## 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](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/abetterwaytocare) #BetterWayToCare

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION  
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

