

Information Sheet: Supporting Organisations

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has launched a campaign to improve the prevention, recognition and treatment of delirium and to provide high-quality care for people with cognitive impairment in hospitals.

Why does cognitive impairment matter?

Cognitive impairment, (such as delirium or dementia), is a common condition experienced by people in hospitals that is often not detected, or is dismissed or misdiagnosed. People with cognitive impairment in hospital are at significantly increased risk of adverse events and preventable complications. Harm can be minimised if cognitive impairment is identified early, risks are acted upon and communication is effective, particularly at transitions. Delirium can be prevented with the right care.

The Commission, in recognition of cognitive impairment as an important safety and quality issue, has included specific items in the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards (second edition).

Who can join the campaign?

The *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* campaign is a call for action to unite everyone who cares for people with cognitive impairment. Doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, health service managers, care and support staff, workers in primary health, community or residential care patients and families can all make a difference.

The Commission has sought the commitment of hospital Chief Executives and lists hospitals who have signed up to the campaign on the web site. The website also enables individuals to commit to the campaign.

The most important first step for everyone is to learn about delirium, dementia and other forms of cognitive impairment. They are then asked to recognise and respond by taking simple, straight forward steps, depending on their role.

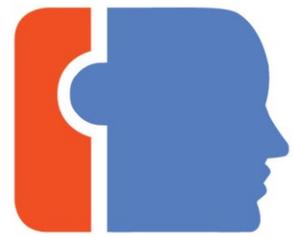
The Commission recognises that key organisations will have a key role in communicating the importance of the campaign and influencing their members to take up the commitment. Therefore, the Commission is inviting key organisations to join as supporters and lists supporting organisations and logos on a special supporter's page. There is also the opportunity to promote events that are relevant to the campaign.

Those who join become part of a community striving to make a difference. There is the opportunity to share success stories and helpful tips to address the challenges faced in implementing change. Everyone will have access to resources, webinars and regular newsletters.

How long does the campaign go for?

The campaign was launched in January 2016 and will run until the end of 2018. Assessment of the NHSQS Standards (2nd ed.) will commence from January 2019. The campaign will assist hospitals to be prepared for the inclusion of cognitive impairment in the NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.).

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What do supporting organisations have to do if they join?

Supporting organisations are asked to promote the campaign to their membership in any way they can. You may choose to:

- Place the link to the *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* Campaign on your website.
- Urge your members to sign up to the *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* campaign in your newsletter.
- Point out that cognitive impairment affects us all. People with cognitive impairment may be our patients, our parents, our loved ones or ourselves.
- Highlight the resources available on the campaign website.
- Raise awareness about cognitive impairment, the issues facing people with cognitive impairment in hospitals and highlight how your members are able to make a difference. Perhaps include articles in your publications, make it a topic for next year's conference, a webinar or a workshop.
- Encourage members to share their success stories and experiences (this can be done easily on line) and to be proud of the difference they have made.
- Identify opportunities for the Commission to promote the campaign to your members.
- Share your events with the Commission that are relevant to the campaign.

What are the benefits for supporting organisations?

- ✓ Your organisation's logo and website are listed on the supporting organisations page of the Commission's campaign website.
- ✓ Your upcoming events can also be promoted on the campaign website.
- ✓ We can include you in our social media messages for the campaign.
- ✓ You are recognised as contributing to an important national initiative that will make a difference to thousands of people who are hospitalised each year.
- ✓ Many of your members are likely to be concerned about the experience of people with cognitive impairment in hospitals and will be pleased their organisation is responding to their concerns and getting on board.

How do organisations join?

Go to the supporter's page on the campaign website and [join online](#).

Alternatively, complete the supporting organisations form and send it through to us with your logo to cognitive.impairment@safetyandquality.gov.au

We just need the details of your contact, your logo and a statement outlining why you have joined that can be included on the website. For example,

"[This organisation] supports the *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* campaign as our members can make a positive difference."

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Supporting Organisations

Commitment Form

Return to: cognitive.impairment@safetyandquality.gov.au

Name of organisation:

Contact person:

Phone:

Email:

Tick

- Please add us to the *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* email list so we receive regular newsletters.
- Please add our logo to the Supporting Organisation page of the *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* web site (logo to be included in your return email, preferably in png format. If that is not possible, then jpg format is ok).
- Please post our Commitment Statement on the Supporting Organisation page of the *Caring for Cognitive Impairment* web site.

Commitment Statement: [please provide a sentence]

Signature

Position:

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