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

[cognitivecare.gov.au  #BetterWayToCare](http://cognitivecare.gov.au)