Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Dementia Care

Formal Title: Dementia Care in the Community: Access for CALD Communities

Method: Participatory Action Research

Investigators:
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Funder/Funding: This project is funded by the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation

Duration: 2 years (September 2013 to September 2015)

Status: Data collection is underway. Publications pending.

Background:
People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds face numerous barriers accessing healthcare services, including difficulties with language and a lack of knowledge of service systems. The lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services and assessment is a major impediment to the accurate diagnosis and treatment for dementia.

There is a lack of understanding of dementia by many people in many CALD communities. Risk factors that affect the uptake of dementia support services are: lack of English, social isolation, insensitivity to peoples’ cultural needs, and lack of transport.

This pilot pioneers the utilisation of a Specialist Dementia Nurse with expertise in dementia care to specifically support culturally and linguistically diverse and non-English speaking clients with cognitive impairment in their own homes.

Aims:
- Develop and refine an inclusive model of community-based dementia care that reaches individuals and their carers from culturally and linguistically diverse and non-English speaking backgrounds and that can be introduced and rolled out as a new model of care, not just at the local community level, but nationally through the Medicare Local network.
- Develop and refine dementia referral pathways in collaboration with Aged Care Assessment Services (ACAS), Medicare Locals and GPs.
- Reduce catastrophic behaviour exacerbations/critical incidents in older people with cognitive decline and dementia.
- Impact current health system architecture by demonstrating the effectiveness of a nurse-led program of positive dementia care in the community, and by creating the evidence base to support an approach to the Department of Health to fund a permanent position within RDNS.

Methods:
This research project will build on evidence from a previous pilot study that used a participatory action research approach to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Specialist Dementia Nurse based in the non CALD community. Action research aims to improve existing practices and develop new ones.

Timelines:
September 2013 to September 2015