



## Poster 2 – 2018 Nordic Implementation Conference

### Knowledge Translation meets “salutogenesis” in dementia care: an implementation smorgasbord

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#### *Background*

Around 244 Australians per day are diagnosed with dementia. Every health, community and aged care sector needs dementia literate staff. Established in 2016, Dementia Training Australia (DTA) is the new national Government funded program for workforce dementia education. DTA is a consortium (5 universities, 1 peak body) plus partner network. A primary deliverable is an online training portal.

#### *Project aim*

To improve longstanding know-do lags in dementia care by implementing: (1) a national multidisciplinary workforce learning pathway, based on (2) a knowledge translation (KT) framework, which (3) challenges the dominant pathogenic lens (excessive focus on disease/risk e.g. aggression, falls). DTA aims to be a gateway for continuous professional development via evidence curation, outcomes measurement, and stakeholder cooperation to introduce an alternative paradigm: salutogenic person-centred dementia care i.e. focus on factors that support health/wellbeing (for staff and care recipients)

#### *Project methods*

Multiphasic implementation of continuous professional development activities targeting: (a) individuals (e.g. workshops, eLearning), and (b) teams deemed ‘change ready’ for tailored interventions (applying a training needs assessment / consultancy service model). The suite of outcomes measures includes the Dementia Knowledge Assessment Scale and a follow-up KT Impact Tool. Development and revision of curricula content is ongoing and involves multi stakeholder consultations in the knowledge-to-action pathway to shape consensus understanding on the pathogenic-salutogenic axis of dementia care.

#### *Project results*

In first months of operation >7500 individual occasions of service delivered (59% residential aged care; 23% community care; 13% primary/acute). First followup evaluations indicate early KT targets reached for building awareness/agreement (>70%). More than 60 tailored training packages have commenced with teams from ‘practice change willing’ aged care providers. Early completions indicate significant positive increases in dementia-related knowledge. Pilot of salutogenic measures and concepts indicates early support from key stakeholders, with a national communications strategy now commenced.

#### *Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion*

The DTA program is a multi-level implementation challenge. Tracking well against uptake targets (e.g. national reach across health sectors) and outcomes (e.g. knowledge improvements), a key innovation is developing an evidence-based implementation for the salutogenic paradigm. The traditional KT ‘gap’ in dementia care is dominated by pathogenic research goals, e.g. symptom reduction, minimising risk. Salutogenesis is a mind-set shift for the three pillars of research, education, and practice.