

Small actions, big difference

Dementia Awareness Month is held every year throughout September an initiative by Dementia Australia. This year's theme, Small actions, big difference encourages all Australians to become more aware of dementia, gain a better understanding of what it is like to live with, or support people living with dementia.

To get involved, health professionals are encouraged to start advance care planning with their patients, attend local events and consider becoming a Dementia-friendly organisation.

Phil Hazell (pictured), is the newest Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) Consumer Advisory Council member, and is an enthusiastic Advocate for Dementia Australia and Chair for the Dementia Australia Advisory Committee. At the age of 55 Phil was diagnosed with Younger Onset Dementia.

In a recent article on the Dementia Australia website, Phil highlighted the importance of how being open and honest can enhance the journey of a patient with dementia.

"I would advise anybody who finds themselves in this position not to try and hide their diagnosis, but to be upfront and tell people."

Phil will be joining the WSPHN team at this year's Dementia Awareness Month Celebration in Blacktown on Thursday 6th September and local community members are invited to attend.

Up-to-date, region-specific dementia resources are available online via the HealthPathways portal. This includes information on a '5 minute neurological exam for patients with possible dementia' and 'Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)' and can be found under the Older Persons Health section.

To access the range of HealthPathways information use the below login details:

Username: healthPassword: w3stern

General resources for health care professionals, free e-learning courses and events are also available on the Dementia Australia website.



Phil Hazell with his Assistance Dog, Sara

Events

Patient activation workshop

Friday 14th September 2018

7:00am - 9:00am

My Health Record in pharmacy – Improving patient care

Tuesday 25th September 2018

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Basic diabetes education for practice nurses

Tuesday 16th October 2018

8:00am - 4:00pm

Medico-legal workshop: Privacy, confidentiality & data breaches

Wednesday 21st November 2018

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Other News

Collaborative Pairs Australia – Call for applications

In association with Consumers Health Forum of Australia, WSPHN invites you to consider applying for a unique leadership opportunity: Collaborative Pairs Australia.

☒ Consumers and service providers work in genuine partnership to lead person-centred health care, services and systems. The initiative is designed to develop capacity in working collaboratively to influence and transform the health system.

☒ As part of the National Demonstration Trial, Collaborative Pairs Australia is being implemented in four primary health network regions. This is your opportunity to be in the first cohort to undertake this program in Australia. Please see the Invitation to Apply for more information on the program, selection criteria and how to apply.

The Guidelines for a Palliative Approach to Aged Care in the Community (COMPAC)

This Palliative Care educational resource includes the knowledge, skills and values that are required to communicate and contribute to the care of patients in the community who have a life limiting illness and/or are approaching the final stages of the normal aging process. This free online training is designed for Australian health professionals, and is available by simply creating an account and logging in to the online training portal.

Stronger Communities Programme

The Stronger Communities Programme (the program) supports the Australian Government's commitment to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia. Round 4 of the program will provide \$22.5 million to fund small capital projects in each of the 150 federal electorates.

The program's intended outcomes are to improve local community participation and contribute to vibrant and viable communities. Each electorate has total funding of up to \$150,000 that can be allocated to successful applications. Applicants must be invited to apply by their local MP.

More information can be found on the website.

GP Association meeting

The following GP Association meeting is coming up in western Sydney:

The Hills: New Challenges in Urology for GPs, Wednesday 12th September.

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