

Post scholarship Report - FNGA

I was honoured to be the recipient of the Nell Espie Study Grant, 2019. The Study Grant, valued at \$3,000, supported my first year in Doctor of Philosophy in Dementia Studies Candidature with the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania. Specifically, the grant assisted with allocation of time and resources towards completion of a comprehensive literature review in 2020. This literature review was overseen by Professor Fran McInerney from the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania, and explored the availability, significance and uptake of dementia education for acute care nurses.

Findings from this literature review highlighted the global and national significance of dementia and its status as both a national and international health priority^{1 2}. The literature review further documented dementia to be the single greatest cause of disability in Australia and the second leading cause of death². In terms of the significance of these figures to nursing, it was established that each year, 25 percent of people aged over 65 years who live with dementia, require hospitalisation³. In comparison with those over 65 years of age who do not have a dementia diagnosis, people with dementia are twice as likely to die in hospital⁴; to have a significantly longer length of stay⁶ and to have a significantly higher risk of developing hospital acquired complications (such as delirium, urinary tract infection, pressure injury or pneumonia)^{3 5}.

Australian nurses were found to be ill-equipped to care for those in hospital with a dementia diagnosis^{7 8 9 10}. Indeed it was found that less than half of Australian nurses had engaged in work-based dementia training¹¹, and that undergraduate nursing education had not equipped new nurses to engage with people with dementia who were hospitalised^{12 13}. Such training is a recommendation of peak advisory bodies (AHMAC¹⁴; NHMRC¹⁵; NSQHS¹⁶).

From this literature review, I was able to present findings to nursing and midwifery colleagues at *The Tasmanian Nursing and Midwifery Conference – 2020 - Inspired for the Future*. My involvement in this conference was very gratifying as it presented an opportunity to showcase my work to peers and to connect with colleagues with similar passions for learning and promoting positive change in the workplace. I presented both a concurrent session and a poster (Concurrent Session Presentation: *Exploring the impact of a dementia educational intervention undertaken by acute care nurses*; Poster: *Case for dementia education to prepare acute sector nurses to provide quality dementia care*).

I am very thankful to have been a recipient of the Nell Espie Study Grant 2019. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Florence Nightingale Grants and Awards Committee for this support. I encourage my nursing and midwifery peers to apply for these grants and awards to assist in achievement of goals in education and research.



References

- 1 World Health Organisation, Dementia Key Facts 2019, viewed 25 July 2019, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dementia>.
- 2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013 *Dementia care in hospitals – costs and strategies*, AIHW, Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/aged-care/dementia-care-in-hospitals-costs-and-strategies/contents/table-of-contents>
- 3 MacDermott S, Yates M, Theobald M, Morvell M, Mohebbi M, West E, Jebramek J, Watts JJ 2017 National Rollout and Evaluation of the Dementia Care in Hospitals Program (DCHP), Ballarat: Victoria (Prepared for the Department of Health)
- 4 Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2013 *Evidence for the safety and quality issues associated with the care of patients with cognitive impairment in acute care settings: a rapid review*. ACSQHC, Sydney www.safetyandquality.gov.au
- 5 Travers, C., et al., *CogChamps: impact of a project to educate nurses about delirium and improve the quality of care for hospitalized patients with cognitive impairment*. 2018 BMC Health Serv Res, 18(1): p. 534.
- 6 Draper B, Gibson D, Peut A, Karmel R, Hudson C, Lobb L, Brien G, Anderson P 2011, *Age effects and outcomes of dementia patients – the Hospital Dementia Services Project* https://www.dementia.org.au/sites/default/files/2011_Nat_AAconference_Draper.pdf
- 7 Turner, A., et al., 2017 *The experience of caring for patients with dementia within a general hospital setting: a meta-synthesis of the qualitative literature*. Aging & Mental Health. 21(1): p. 66-76.
- 8 Nayton, K., Fielding, E., Brooks, D., Graham, F. A. & Beattie, E. 2014. Development of an education program to improve care of patients with dementia in an acute care setting. *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 45, 552-558
- 9 Surr, C.A., et al., 2017 *Effective Dementia Education and Training for the Health and Social Care Workforce: A Systematic Review of the Literature*. Rev Educ Res, 87(5): p. 966-1002.
- 10 Surr, C.A., et al., 2016 *Impact of a person-centred dementia care training programme on hospital staff attitudes, role efficacy and perceptions of caring for people with dementia: A repeated measures study*. Int J Nurs Stud, 53: p. 144-51.
- 11 Yates M 2014 Why do we need to improve dementia care in acute hospitals? presentation at Dementia Care in Hospitals Symposium, Sydney, 2014.
- 12 Turner, A., et al., 2017 *The experience of caring for patients with dementia within a general hospital setting: a meta-synthesis of the qualitative literature*. Aging & Mental Health. 21(1): p. 66-76.
- 13 Banerjee, S., et al., 2017 *How do we enhance undergraduate healthcare education in dementia? A review of the role of innovative approaches and development of the Time for Dementia Programme*. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry, 32(1): p. 68-75.
- 14 Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council AHMAC 2015 *National Framework for action on dementia – 2015-2019* Australian Government Department of Health <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care-older-people-their-families-and-carers-dementia/national-framework-for-action-on-dementia-2015-2019>
- 15 National Health and Medical Research Council 2016, *Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia*, Sydney Guideline Adaptation Committee. http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/cdpc/documents/resources/LAVER_Dementia_Guidelines_recommendations_PRVV5.pdf
- 16 <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/cognitive-impairment/cognitive-impairment-resources>