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Enhancing the Safety of People Living in the Community with Dementia & Other Chronic Conditions

What is dementia & prevalence

Emotional issues

Stigma

Diagnosis

What can you do now?

Normal signs of ageing vs early dementia

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Understanding dementia

Not a disease

Set of symptoms

Loss of mental function in two
or more areas

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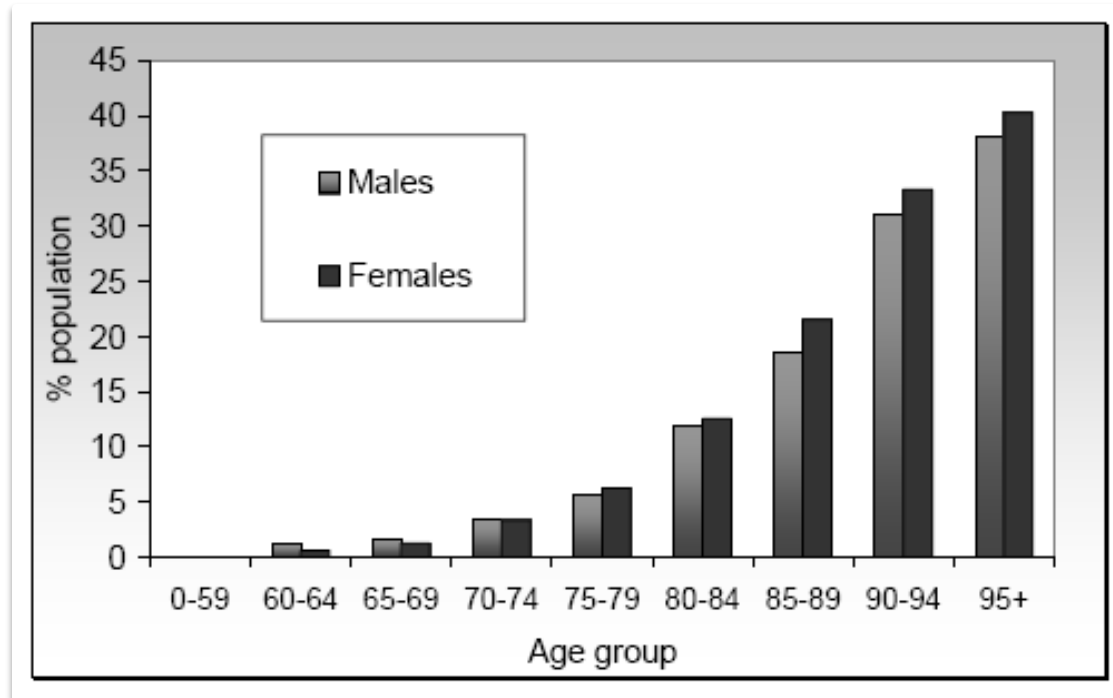


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Prevalence of Dementia in Australia



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Emotional Issues

I don't want to be a burden on my
family

I know there's something wrong but I
don't know what it is

I am confused

anxiety, depression, grief, despair, terror

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Stigma & Stereotypes

Ageing generally

Dementia is framed very negatively

Seen as a 'living death'

There is no cure

There is a lack of information and public awareness

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Diagnosis

Issues for
health practitioners and
older people and families



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A diagnosis is important because ...

Address other causes of memory loss, infections,
medicines side effects, depression

It is a relief – understand what is going on

Cannot access some services without it

Planning for the future

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What can you do now to plan for your future?

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Community services and supports

Aged Care Assessment Teams

1800 052 222

Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre

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Putting “the Powers” in Place

Enduring Power of Attorney

Enduring Power of Guardianship

Medical Power of Attorney

Anticipatory Direction

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Legal Services Commission
82-98 Wakefield Street, Adelaide
LEGAL HELP LINE 1300 366 424
Seniors Information Service
76 Waymouth Street, Adelaide
8168 8776
ask your solicitor

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Alzheimer's Australia (S.A.)

Resources, Information, Support

27 Conyngham Street
GLENSIDE SA 5065



Alzheimer's
Australia
Living with dementia

(08) 8372 2100

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Mind your ...
Brain
Diet
Body
Health checks
Social life
Habits
Head

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What's normal vs what's not

Forgetting names or appointments
occasionally

VS

forgetting more often and unable to recall the
information later

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Occasionally forgetting why you walked
into a particular room or what you
wanted to say

VS

it is hard to complete everyday tasks like
preparing a meal, making a telephone
call, playing a game

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Sometimes having trouble finding the
right word
VS
forgetting simple words or using unusual
words

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Forgetting the day of the week or where
you were going

VS

getting lost in your own neighbourhood,
forget how you got where you are, not
knowing how to get home

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Occasionally making a questionable decision VS showing poor or decreased judgement

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Sometimes feeling weary of work or
social obligations

VS

becoming very passive, sleeping more
than usual, not wanting to do usual
activities

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Occasionally feeling sad or moody
VS
rapid mood swings, from calm to tears
to anger, for no apparent reason

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Your personality changes a little with age
VS
becoming extremely confused,
suspicious, fearful or dependent on a
family member

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If you are
always
forgetting
where you
put your car
keys

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"Dottie, am I crazy, or do I hear those
car keys I lost jingling?"

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Don't worry!
it's when you
forget what keys
are *for* that you
should be
concerned



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“you must really love your job”



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