

Statewide Dementia Clinical Network

Fact Sheet

Fast facts about the Statewide Dementia Clinical Network (SDCN):

- Established in December 2007, evolving out of a long-standing collaborative of clinicians and researchers
- Supported by the Clinical Access and Redesign Unit (CARU)
- Sponsored by the Deputy Director-General, Health Service and Clinical Innovation Division
- Chaired under a co-clinical chair arrangement by:
 - A/Prof Eddy Strivens, Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Clinical Director, Older Persons, Sub-Acute and Rehab, Cairns and Hinterland HHS; and
 - Ms Denise Craig, Senior Psychologist and Dementia Advisor, Cairns Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) and Memory Clinic, Cairns HHS

How does the SDCN function?

The Network

- At the time of writing, there were approximately 220 members of the SDCN, representing a wide range of clinicians across the health system, non-government organisations, research organisations, general practice, and consumer organisations
- Membership is open to all clinicians with an active interest in improving the care of people with dementia
- SDCN members are invited to attend bi-annual forums to exchange ideas, information, research, and success stories amongst the membership. The forums are also used to determine future directions for the network to improve the quality of care for people with dementia, and provide the members with valuable networking opportunities
- Operates within the context of the Queensland Health Clinical Network Policy and Implementation Standard

The Steering Committee

- Is a balanced, multidisciplinary mix of Queensland Health clinicians, with research organisations, general practice and consumer representation, reflecting Queensland's geographical dispersion and variety of facility size
- Meets on a monthly basis

The Clinical Chair

- The position of Clinical Chair is appointed on a two yearly basis and can be provided through a Co-Clinical Chair arrangement. Such an arrangement enables a blend of clinical expertise, knowledge and

experience in assisting the SDCN to represent the diversity of needs of people from the different parts of Queensland.

Key priority areas:

At the SDCN Forum in May 2014, network members furthered the priority areas that had been identified at the August 2013 forum. These priority areas are linked to the Qld Health Dementia Framework and are being progressed by the following working groups:

- Telehealth and Dementia
- Dementia Data
- Revision of the Queensland Dementia Framework

How will this impact on dementia services?

The SDCN:

- improves the quality, safety, and effectiveness of dementia care in Queensland
- provides expertise, direction and advice to the Department of Health in relation to dementia care and future planning
- provides, through its website (see link below), evidence-based practice, current information, etc. to guide service improvement, along with links to other useful clinical resources
- develops an open and supportive environment for clinicians, consumers and their carers who are involved in, or in receipt of, dementia services in Queensland
- fosters education and research

How do I get involved?

If you would like to help improve the care of people with dementia, and become involved with the SCDN, or have any general queries, please contact the network coordinator via:

Email: Statewide_Dementia_Network@health.qld.gov.au

Websites: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/caru/networks/dementia.asp> (public access)