



Dementia and cognitive impairment

OVERVIEW OF MODULE

Although dementia is a very common condition in Australia, there is still a lot of misunderstanding around dementia. The way we talk about dementia and the words we use to describe dementia can have a big impact. For example, when talking about people with dementia, you should use terms like 'people living with dementia' and avoid words that are negative, like 'sufferer.' For more examples on how to talk about dementia, visit Dementia Australia at dementia.org.au

This education module provides staff with information about the pain experience in people living with dementia.

Learning objectives

- 1 Describe behaviours that may indicate a person living with dementia is in pain
- 2 Identify different assessment tools used to assess pain in people living with dementia

Learning objectives

Record your answers to the discussion questions below.

1. How did you feel after watching the video?

2. List the ways you can help people with dementia communicate their pain.

3. List the behavioural signs that show to you that the person living with dementia may be in pain.

4. List the tool(s) your aged care facility/aged care provider organisation use to assess pain in people living with dementia.



Key messages



A person living with dementia also experiences pain, even if they can't tell you. Try to communicate with them about their pain as best as possible



'Change behaviours' may be a sign that a person living with dementia has pain (e.g., yelling, calling out, groaning)



There are tools designed specifically for assessing pain in people living with dementia

For more information, visit

www.apsoc.org.au/painACT-Online-Learning

