

Allied Health Leadership-development Program

The Queensland and Western Australia Dementia Training Study Centres are collaborating to provide an opportunity for two representatives from each state/ territory to participate in a leadership development initiative. The focus of the program is the implementation of the Hierarchic Dementia Scale (HDS) as a key assessment measure for determining functional and cognitive abilities and limitations for people with dementia - and to develop and implement strategies that enable the use of remaining abilities and support limitations. Skills development training and education will facilitate participants taking up and broadening leadership roles that support the uptake and integration of the HDS in their organisation and jurisdiction.

Purpose:

The QLD and WA DTSCs Allied Health Leadership-development Program (AHLP) aims to strengthen workforce capacity nationally in the dementia care sector through the training and support of health professionals to implement and evaluate evidence-informed dementia education and training activities for staff within their organisations. Specifically the AHLP is designed to develop a group of Allied Health 'Dementia Champions' within each state and territory.

Eligibility:

Participation in this Program is open to university qualified/registered health professionals from any organisation in Australia that provides health and/or related services to people with dementia. Please consider applying if you are enthusiastic about fostering professional development for staff and colleagues in your area to enable optimal care strategies for your clients with dementia and their families in community or residential care settings.

Participation in this program is limited to 2 individuals from each state/territory and successful applicants and their managers will need to be able to demonstrate ongoing commitment to implementing the program.

Program:

- A two-day workshop in Brisbane comprising:
 - Day 1 - HDS assessment, care planning, and problem solving
 - Day 2 - Structuring dissemination - leadership skills, change management and mentoring
- Pre-workshop reading
- Follow-up support via teleconference and online.
- Resources – each participant will receive a HDS kit and manual in addition to training and facilitator materials.
- Travel and accommodation will be provided for participants to attend the workshop.

Application and Selection:

The applicant must:

1. Be a university qualified /registered health professional working for an organisation in Australia that provides healthcare and/or related services for people living with dementia.
2. Have a personal and professional commitment to person-centred dementia care.
3. Have professional and role capacity to influence practice changes within the workplace and in their chosen profession.
4. Have previous experience in the cognitive assessment of, and development of intervention options for, people with dementia.
5. Attend both days of the two-day workshop facilitated by Heather Freegard in Brisbane, 21-22 February 2013.
6. Ideally have knowledge of and experience in using the Hierarchic Dementia Scale to identify cognitive abilities and limitations of people with dementia.

To apply please:

1. Provide a copy of your CV with an expression of interest explaining how participation in the Allied Health Leadership-development Program will facilitate your ability to influence practice changes and leadership within your role and organisation.
2. Provide a letter of support from a direct line supervisor indicating agreement for you to participate in the two-day training workshop in Brisbane, and support for you to fulfil a leadership role in championing dissemination of the HDS as a key measure in the assessment and planning of person-centred care for people with dementia.

Email applications by 12 noon, Monday 19 November 2012
to Liz Miles, Qld DTSC elizabeth.miles@gut.edu.au

Dementia Training Study Centres, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing aim to design, deliver and evaluate evidence-informed dementia education and training activities and resources for health professionals from across care settings and disciplines throughout Australia. www.dtsc.com.au

Heather Freegard is a Senior Lecturer with Curtin School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work. Her clinical and academic career in occupational therapy has focussed in the areas of gerontology and ethics, especially the provision of appropriate services to people with dementia and their families. Heather was awarded the Sir Vincent Fairfax Churchill Fellowship to study 'Functional assessment to determine remaining abilities for people with dementia'. Direct consequences of the fellowship and study tour has been the introduction of the Hierarchic Dementia Scale as the assessment of choice in Western Australian aged care services to determine remaining cognitive abilities and limitations receiving health and residential services in WA. Heather is currently on secondment to Curtin Centre for Research on Ageing as Program Coordinator for the WA Dementia Training Study Centre..

The HDS is a reliable and valid assessment tool that accurately measures cognitive function not only in terms of impaired function but more importantly in terms of remaining abilities. The HDS addresses a wide range of severity and is sensitive enough to detect change over time. It is safe and inexpensive to use.