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Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services



Supporting workers • Advice • Information • Referral



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Australia WA Ltd
Living with dementia

Helping Australians with dementia, and their carers



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The Effect of Environmental Change on People with Dementia

Lynne Hedley – Manager, DBMAS



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Session Outcomes

- Discuss the strategies that could be used to plan admission for a person into a new environment
- Identify the loss that a person may experience when there is a change in their living arrangements
- Explain the importance of collecting a life story



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Planning Admission

Where possible

- Gather information about the person
- Invite the person to meet fellow residents
- Identify a key liaison person
- Buddy with a resident with similar interests/experiences



Basic Conditions for Admission

- Desire to move
- Legitimate reasons to move
- Control over decision to move

Chenitz (1983)

Unplanned admissions resulted in emotional turmoil and the person took longer to adjust compared to a planned admission

Wilson (1997)



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Losses

- Who can offer support on the day of the move?
- Even if not able to verbalise feelings, will still be upset at leaving home
- Emotions may be expressed by changed behaviours



Suggested Strategies

- Involve the person in the decision making
- Provide an opportunity for them to say goodbye to their home
- Ask them to choose treasured items to take with them
- Reassure that the caregiver will visit
- Whiteboard of visiting schedule/Talking mat



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Fantasy Exercise

- What could alleviate some of your distress?
- What would add to your distress?

Source: Brooker, D (2007)



Caregivers

Survey of caregivers showed

- Almost 1/2 continued to visit regularly, provided physical care
- Anxiety, not depression declined over time
- Depression often related to financial hardship, frequent visits to facility, decreased control over care, failed to live up to obligations



Life Story

Egan et al (2007) found that

- 1/3 N/H staff unaware of the residents previous occupation
- Where information not known, assumptions made
- 1/2 staff reported changes in the way they cared after they had read the residents life story



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Advantages of a Life Story

- Form a genuine relationship
- Individualise the approach
- Increase meaningful and rewarding interactions
- Staff see person with dementia as like them
- Social and working life, hobbies and interests indicate how the person likes to spend their time,



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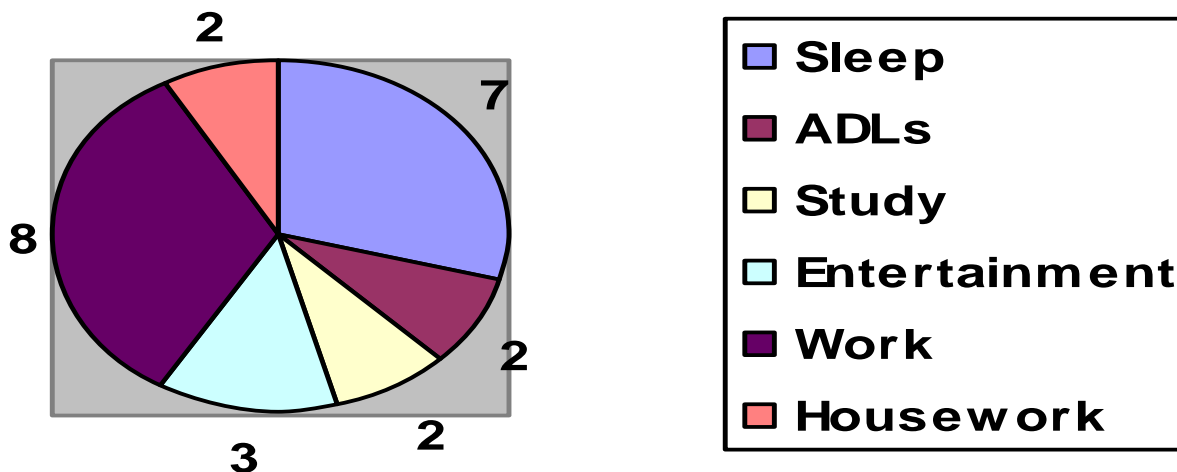


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How do we spend our time?



How do we spend our time?





DEMENTIA BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

