

MEDIA RELEASE

New resources for Gippsland people diagnosed with dementia

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New resources designed to support people who have been diagnosed with dementia have been released by Gippsland Primary Health Network.

Created as part of a collaboration between five Victorian Primary Health Networks (PHNs) – Gippsland, Western Victoria, North Western Melbourne, Eastern Melbourne and Murray – and the Tasmanian PHN, the resources were funded by the Federal Government and detail information and supports available in local communities for people living with dementia, their carers and families.

Gippsland PHN Acting Chief Executive, Angela Jacob, said the resources were developed as part of the Federal Government’s response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Mrs Jacob said there was estimated to be nearly half a million Australians who were living with dementia, while around 1.6 million Australians were involved in the care of someone with dementia.

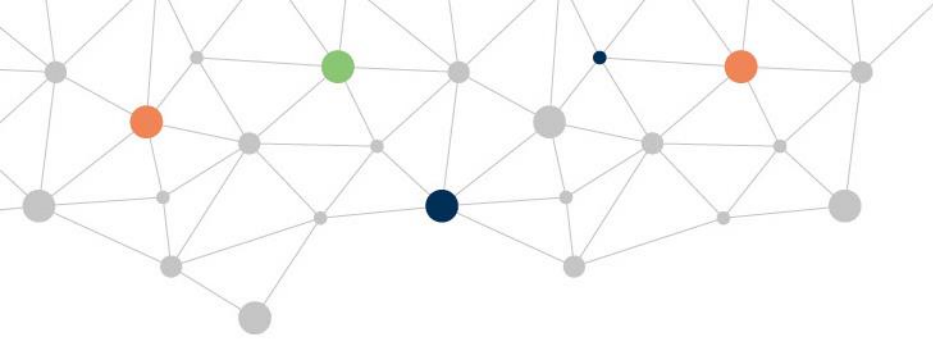
A Priority Issues Paper on dementia, released last year by Gippsland PHN, revealed more than 7,488 people in Gippsland had dementia with this number expected to increase to 13,783 by 2058. An estimated 438 people experienced younger onset dementia (under 65 years).

The paper named dementia as the second cause of death among females in Gippsland and the sixth cause of death among males.

“As more Australians live longer, these numbers are expected to increase significantly, which is why these resources are a valuable addition to the supports that people, diagnosed with dementia, can access,” Mrs Jacob said.

“Receiving a diagnosis of dementia can be an extremely challenging and overwhelming experience for anyone, so having access to good quality information and resources in an easy-to-understand format is really important.”

The resources include a brochure – Dementia: Resources and support to help you live well – for people who are in the process of being diagnosed with dementia and their families or carers. The brochure is designed for people who may be experiencing some cognitive



decline. It outlines the process of getting a dementia diagnosis and includes suggestions for important questions to ask your GP.

The brochure also has information about other dementia supports and resources, including links to a local Dementia Directory on the Gippsland PHN website.

As part of the PHN collaboration, new resources to support health professionals have also been created. A new workforce dementia training program called Demystifying Dementia, has been developed in conjunction with Dementia Training Australia, with the program designed and facilitated by GPs for GPs, GP registrars, Practice Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and other health professionals.

The downloadable version of the brochure and the localised Gippsland PHN Dementia Directory can be found [here](#).

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