

CONTENTS

This Toolkit includes:

- Key messages.
- Long and short draft newsletter copy.
- News article for PHN websites outlining the dementia resources.
- Social media tiles and suggested post copy.
- Email signature banners and newsletters banners.
- Dementia Demystified training social media tiles and email/newsletter banners.

KEY MESSAGES

- Dementia is core business for GPs – dementia is the leading cause of death for women and, overall, the second leading cause of death in Australia and the third highest cause of disease burden. ([Dementia Australia statistics](#))
- Dementia care is complex to manage but there are resources available to help – new HealthPathways, new localised consumer resources and new workforce training.
- HealthPathways is the source of localised clinical and referral pathways for you to use during consultations with your patients. The dementia clinical and referral pathways have recently been updated to reflect best practice and to include a range of local services and supports that your patients can be referred to.
- Your local PHN is providing new education opportunities for you to build your knowledge, skills and confidence in supporting people with dementia and their carers and families.

LONG NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Dementia HealthPathways, Local Resources & Training Updated

Funded by the Federal Government, Victorian and Tasmanian PHNs have just released new suite of updated dementia resources for health professionals.

With dementia now the leading cause of death for women, the second overall cause of death and the third highest cause of disease burden in Australia, diagnosing, treating and supporting dementia patients, their carers and families, is more important than ever.

Recognising that a dementia diagnosis is complex and time consuming, the new resources aim to support health professionals to give the best access to clinical tools, referral paths, consumer resources and professional training possible.

The new resources include:

- **Updated HealthPathways** ([hotlink to HealthPathway](#)) – including new best-practice clinical and referral pathways and links to resources for patients.
- **New dementia training** ([hotlink to training](#)) – Dementia Demystified is a new two-part training course created in conjunction with Dementia Training Australia and designed, developed and facilitated by GPs for GPs, GP registrars, practice nurses, nurse practitioners and other health professionals in the primary care setting.
- **New downloadable dementia brochure and links to localised dementia supports and resources** ([hotlink to resources](#)) – designed for patients diagnosed with dementia, carers or family, with support and resources localised to our region.

SHORT NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Dementia HealthPathways, Local Resources & Training Updated

Recognising dementia as one of the leading causes of death in Australia, in conjunction with other Victorian and Tasmanian PHNs, we have just released new suite of updated dementia resources for health professionals and people diagnosed with dementia, including:

- **Updated HealthPathways** ([hotlink to HealthPathway](#)) – including new best-practice clinical and referral pathways and links to resources for clients.
- **New dementia training** ([hotlink to training](#)) – the new two-part Dementia Demystified course has been created in conjunction with Dementia Training Australia and designed, developed and facilitated by GPs for GPs, GP registrars, practice nurses, nurse practitioners and other health professionals in the primary care setting.
- **New downloadable dementia brochure and links to localised dementia supports and resources** ([hotlink to resources](#)) – designed for patients diagnosed with dementia, carers or family, with support and resources localised to our region.

NEWS ARTICLE FOR WEBSITE

This has been provided as a link for social media posts to provide more in-depth information.

New dementia resources for health professionals & their patients

New dementia resources designed to support health professionals working in primary health have been released this month.

Created as part of a collaboration between five Victorian Primary Health Networks – Western Victoria, North Western Melbourne, East Melbourne, Gippsland and Murray – and the Tasmanian PHN, the resources were funded by the Federal Government with the aim of providing more support to GPs to diagnose and care for people who have been diagnosed with dementia.

The new resources have three components: new and revised HealthPathways, new Dementia Demystified training and a new dementia brochure for consumers.

New & Revised Dementia HealthPathways

There are four up-to-date clinical pathways available to assist GPs:

- [Cognitive impairment and dementia](#) (update for your PHN's HealthPathways) – this is the main clinical pathway outlining assessment, management and referral for people experiencing memory loss or who have been diagnosed with dementia
- [Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia \(BPSD\)](#) (update for your PHN's HealthPathways) – this pathway outlines assessment, management and referral related to non-cognitive symptoms of dementia such as aggression, agitation, depression, wandering and disinhibited behaviours.
- [Five-minute neurological exam for patients with possible dementia](#) (update for your PHN's HealthPathways) – focused neurological examination suitable for a general practice setting.
- [Medications for dementia](#) (update for your PHN's HealthPathways) – outlines use of cholinesterase inhibitors in management of certain types of dementia.

[Referral pages](#) (update for your PHN's HealthPathways) on HealthPathways have also been updated to include information about referring to local Cognitive, Dementia and Memory Service (CDAMS) clinics for diagnosis, as well as services to assist with behaviour management, along with supports and resources such as national helplines, carer support services, respite providers and local support groups.

New Dementia Training – Dementia Demystified

We are also offering a new two-part course, Dementia Demystified, which has been created in conjunction with Dementia Training Australia and designed, developed and facilitated by GPs for GPs, GP registrars, practice nurses, nurse practitioners and other health professionals in the primary care setting.

This tailored training package, which is delivered by Dementia Training Australia, covers:

- Reframing Dementia – applying GP friendly frameworks to better understand dementia
- Dementia diagnosis demystified – a stepwise approach to diagnosing dementia in general practice
- Dementia management demystified – a stepwise approach to initiating the post-diagnostic care of dementia in general practice



The first phase of training will be delivered in ??? with new sessions to be scheduled and communicated throughout the year. (update for your PHN's training)

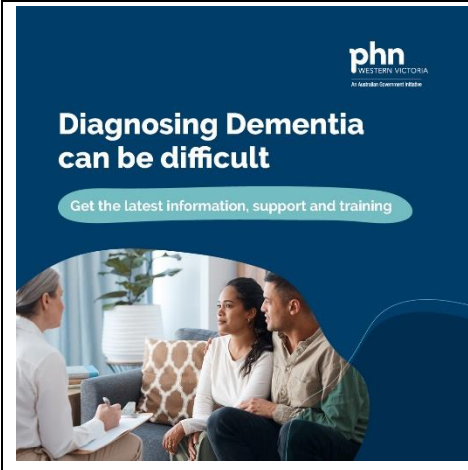
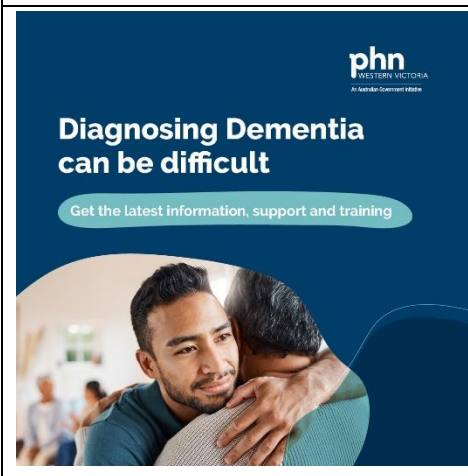
Dementia brochure for patients & localised supports and resources

We have a new dementia consumer resource – *Dementia: Resources and support to help you live well*. It is designed for GPs and other service providers to give to people around the time of diagnosis, which they can take away and refer to over time. It includes information about all the key organisations that can help, including Dementia Australia, Carer Gateway, My Aged Care, and the NDIS. It also includes a QR code to a directory of local services and supports available in the **?????** region, which will be maintained and updated as required.

Research undertaken by Dementia Australia identified that people felt overwhelmed with information at the time of a dementia diagnosis and would like to be given hard copy resources to refer to at a later date or when they are ready. This resource aims to fill that need and is available in the 'information for patients' section of dementia pathways on HealthPathways ([hotlink to come](#)). It will also be shared widely with local service providers and available as download from our **website** ([hotlink to come](#)).

SOCIAL MEDIA TILES

	<p>New & updated HealthPathways, links to localised supports & resources for patients, new GP-led dementia training. Find more information here (insert hotlink)</p>
	<p>New & updated HealthPathways, links to localised supports & resources for patients, new GP-led dementia training. Find more information here link to news article above on website</p>

 <p>phn WESTERN VICTORIA An Australian Government Institute</p> <p>Diagnosing Dementia can be difficult</p> <p>Get the latest information, support and training</p>	<p>New & updated HealthPathways, links to localised supports & resources for patients, new GP-led dementia training. Find more information here (able to insert hotlink)</p>
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EMAIL SIGNATURES & NEWSLETTER BANNERS

Banners can be used in email signature or as newsletter banners and be hotlinked to further resources.





Dementia – get the latest information, support and training



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New & updated HealthPathways, links to localised supports & resources for patients, new GP-led dementia training. Find more information here:



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New & updated HealthPathways, links to localised supports & resources for patients, new GP-led dementia training. Find more information here:



DEMISTIFYING DEMENTIA TRAINING RESOURCES

Social media tiles, and email and newsletter banners to promote the dementia training.

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WESTERN VICTORIA
As part of the Government of Victoria

DEMISTIFYING DEMENTIA

21 March & 4 April 2023

New online dementia training for health professionals

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