



Media Release

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A DIRECT path to dementia care

A three year trial looking at ways to improve the quality of life for residents living with dementia has shown some encouraging results as it enters its second phase.

The Dementia in Residential Care: Education Intervention Trial (DIRECT) is a joint venture between Royal Perth Hospital, the University of WA and the WA Centre for Health and Ageing.

The aim of the trial is to investigate the influence of education for care facility staff and GP's on the quality of life of people with dementia in residential care facilities.

It has engaged GP's and residential care facility staff to develop an education strategy which will ultimately benefit residents with dementia.

Principal Investigator Dr Christopher Beer said there had been enormous support for the trial.

"The combined education program for GPs and residential care facility staff is proving to be very useful," said Dr Beer.

This is the first trial in Australia that will create a dementia education strategy incorporating feedback directly from those who will end up using it, and determine the effect of that education on the quality of life of care recipients.

Como House Aged Care Facility nurse Danielle Brockman, took part in the trial and said that she would benefit greatly from the educational package.

"This is a fantastic research study and I look forward to being part of the dementia education training," said Danielle.

By the end of the three year study, 370 residential care facility staff and GP's will have been studied, providing the research team with valuable information used to create the educational packages.

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