



Under the Microscope

With Associate Professor Nicola Lautenschlager

Associate Professor of Psychiatry of Old Age Nicola Lautenschlager was recently awarded \$393,700 from the National Health and Medical Research Council for a dementia study.

Nicola, a joint appointment between RPH and UWA said the success of the application indicated the Government was taking the issue seriously.

"Dementia is the most common mental health problem in older adults and is one of the leading causes of disability," she said.

"We are trying to prove that people who lack awareness of mild memory loss are at higher risk of going on to develop dementia.

"In this two-year study, we will focus on older people with mild memory loss whose condition is not severe enough to have reached the diagnosis of dementia.

"The symptoms can be so mild that they don't affect their everyday life such as forgetting appointments or difficulty learning tasks."

The study assesses awareness and memory over 24 months in some 160 people over the age of 65. It will involve 80 people with pre-dementia symptoms, such as mild memory loss, and 80 who are cognitively healthy.

If you are over 65 and have concerns about your memory or if you know someone in this age bracket and have concerns about their memory, the research team would be delighted to hear from you.

Participants must not already have a diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's Disease.

The team also wishes to involve people over 65 who have no concerns about their memory but would like to take part as the healthy control group.

To register interest, call 9224 2855.