

Development of regional dementia services pathways

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Background: The purpose of this project presentation is to provide an outline of the development of regional dementia services pathways. Pathway development was based upon the KPMG document 'Dementia services pathways—an essential guide to effective service planning', developed for the Department of Health and Ageing.

Aim and objectives: The aim of this project was to develop dementia pathways that are applicable across the Loddon Mallee region. The overall project objectives included:

- the development of local pathways for three of the management stages of dementia as identified in the KPMG Dementia Services Pathways Framework:
 - awareness, recognition and referral
 - initial assessment, diagnosis and post-diagnosis support
 - management, care, support and review
- develop user-guide for pathway implementation.

(Note: The end of life pathway was excluded as it was being managed by Palliative Care Services)

Methods: The KPMG Framework recommends the development of service pathways be conducted at workshops that include a broad spectrum of key service providers across the continuum of care and consumer representatives.

The Framework also includes a self-assessment tool which was used to identify current dementia services. Two rounds of service provider workshops were conducted: the first round of workshops aimed to gather relevant information to develop the Pathways; the second round of workshops reviewed the final draft of the Pathways.

Focus groups were also conducted with people with dementia and their carers across the region to gain their input into the development of the Pathways.

Results: Initially it was envisaged that three Dementia Services Pathways would be developed, one for each key management stage, however it soon became apparent from the Advisory Panel, service provider workshops, and consumer/carer focus groups that each of the three pathways needed to be further refined if they were to

meet the needs of both service providers and consumers/carers. The outcome was that six different Dementia Services Pathways were produced. The Dementia Services Pathways have been designed to provide one page of content in a practical and user friendly format.

Recommendations for policy

- The Dementia Service Pathways were developed for use in the Loddon Mallee region of Victoria, however they are transferable and applicable at a national level.
- A business model should be developed to support the use of Dementia Service Pathways in General Practice.