

2015

Service and support needs of people with younger onset dementia

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Abstract

Objectives: Younger onset dementia (YOD) is any form of dementia that occurs in those dementia, carers, service providers and policy makers was undertaken to ascertain potential models for more appropriate service delivery and support.

Keywords

needs, onset, support, service, younger, people, dementia

Publication Details

A. Westera, D. Fildes & C. Duncan, "Service and support needs of people with younger onset dementia", 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International. Alzheimer's Disease International, Australia, (2015) 116-116.

Oral Abstracts

OC101

Date: Saturday 18 April 2015

Session: Younger Onset Dementia

SERVICE AND SUPPORT NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA

Anita Westera¹, David Fildes¹, Cathy Duncan¹ and Project team: Younger Onset Dementia literature review and needs and feasibility analysis

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Objectives: Younger onset dementia (YOD) is any form of dementia that occurs in those <65 years. The Australian government recently commissioned an international literature review and needs and feasibility assessment of services for people with younger onset dementia. A consultation process involving people with younger onset dementia, carers, service providers and policy makers was undertaken to ascertain potential models for more appropriate service delivery and support.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews and on-line surveys were used to ascertain the extent to which current services met the needs of people with younger onset dementia and their families.

Results: Over two hundred people nationally participated in semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups with the project team and nearly one hundred survey responses were received from people with younger onset dementia, of which approximately one third were complete.

Conclusion: A new paradigm in terms of the way services are funded, developed and delivered is needed that more appropriately take into account the life stage, circumstances and expectations of people with younger onset dementia.

Service and policy development for people with younger onset dementia should be guided by the following: a focus on the individual; timely and accurate diagnosis; appropriate services; integrated care; continuity of care; service specific issues such as the need for respite care and peer support; and good policy and program design.

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Disclosure of Interest: A. Westera Conflict with: Australian Government Department of Social Services, D. Fildes Conflict with: Australian Government Department of Social Services, C. Duncan Conflict with: Australian Government Department of Social Services

Keywords: service design, supportive model of care