Australians Love to Drive: What do drivers over 55 say about dementia and driving?

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Aims

- Overview of current literature on driving and dementia
- Discuss current thinking about the role of practitioners in supporting a person with dementia to consider retirement from driving
- Opportunities to review existing tools used to assess the capability of person with dementia to drive
- Generate views from people with dementia and carers about driving and dementia
- Highlight findings from a research project involving drivers over 55 and people with dementia on their views about what support they consider helpful in considering retirement from driving

Literature Review

- Driving is a complex task
- Dementia is progressive and affects driving
- Dementia onset and severity is difficult to define
- Assessment of fitness to drive is subjective
- Some drivers with dementia are reluctant to accept negative assessment outcomes
- Most effective means of preparing drivers with dementia to accept driving retirement not known

Consumer involvement:

Who should be responsible for helping a person with dementia decide to retire from driving?
What do individuals want?

What would you appreciate if you…

- Have a dementia and are still driving
- Are caring for a person who has a dementia and is still driving
- Are a practitioner and one of your clients has a dementia and is still driving

What do you think the community said?

Review of freely available resources on public resources

- What do you think useful about the resource?
- Why would you use/not use this resource?
- What additions to resource would make it more useful for a person with dementia and his/her carer?

Conclusion

- Assessment of fitness to drive remains subjective and a challenge for consumers, carers, practitioners and researchers
- A range of driving and dementia resources exist but none on their own meet the needs of Australian drivers
- Future work should focus on supporting drivers with dementia and their carers to consider when to retire from driving
- Our next step is a UOW and AA NSW collaboration to develop a consumer tool kit