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Building blocks for dementia friendly communities: mapping dementia friendly places and spaces in Kiama

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Abstract

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BUILDING BLOCKS FOR DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: MAPPING DEMENTIA FRIENDLY PLACES AND SPACES IN KIAMA

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Objectives: This paper discusses how cartographic maps can assist in creating Dementia Friendly Communities. As part of a wider Action-Research approach for supporting the creation of a more 'Dementia Friendly' Kiama, our fieldwork relied on semi-structured, qualitative mapping interviews, using paper-based maps of the local area for participants to draw upon when answering questions about the places they frequent and why. Grounded insights into lived experience and the spaces and places that matter were revealed, with subsequent GIS and qualitative analysis categorising a variety of features of the physical environment that can variously enable or hinder community participation for people living with dementia and their carers. Additionally, factors related to the social environment including personal identity and socio-spatial inclusion/exclusion were identified and discussed through our qualitative mapping approach. Together, mapping these physical and social aspects has provided our pilot project with a spatially-enabled evidence base to begin building a robust Dementia Friendly Communities strategy.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Keywords: Mapping, urban geography