

University of Wollongong

## Research Online

---

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health -  
Papers: part A

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

---

1-1-2015

### Designing public buildings to be dementia friendly

Kirsty A. Bennett

University of Wollongong, kbennett@uow.edu.au

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers>



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Bennett, Kirsty A., "Designing public buildings to be dementia friendly" (2015). *Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health - Papers: part A*. 2837.  
<https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers/2837>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: [research-pubs@uow.edu.au](mailto:research-pubs@uow.edu.au)

---

## Designing public buildings to be dementia friendly

### Abstract

Abstract presented at the 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, 15 - 18 April 2015, Perth, Australia

### Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Publication Details

Bennett, K. (2015). Designing public buildings to be dementia friendly. 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International: Abstract Book (pp. 168-168). Australia: Alzheimer's Disease International.

## Poster Abstracts

P037

Topic: Design and Technology

### DESIGNING PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO BE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Kirsty Bennett <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NSW/ACT DTSC (Demential Training Study Centre), University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia

**Objectives:** To raise awareness of the importance of designing public buildings that are dementia friendly

To provide advice on how to make public buildings dementia friendly

#### Outline

Until recently, designing for people living with dementia has focussed primarily on designing residential aged care settings and improving the design of a person's home. The goal has been to design or modify environments so that a person can continue to live meaningfully. These are vital and important endeavours. However, if a person is to truly live a meaningful life, it needs to be recognised that he or she also needs to be able to engage in the wider community. It is essential that a person is able to continue to do the things that have always been an important part of their life, such as going down the street, doing the shopping, paying a bill, or collecting a library book.

This paper will focus on the design of public buildings. It will consider ways in which public buildings can be designed to be dementia friendly and how existing settings can be modified and improved. Case studies of public settings will be used to highlight the issues facing a person with dementia. Attention will be paid to a person's arrival, their entry, and the route to their destination (such as a council office, a supermarket, a bank or a library).

Key principles of designing for people living with dementia have been used with great success to design living environments for people with dementia. The application of these principles in the design of public buildings will be discussed, as well as the role they have to play in creating dementia friendly communities.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

**Keywords:** case studies, design, design principles, public buildings