

University of Wollongong  

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

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Literature Review

- Knowledge
- Thinking
- Attitudes

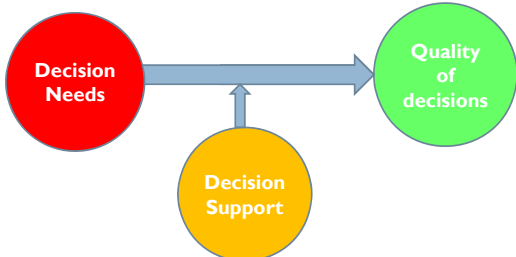
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Literature Review: A framework

- Driving is a complex task
- Dementia is progressive and effects 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

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Consumer involvement : Can drivers with dementia be involved in the decision making process?



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graph LR
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    B((Decision Support)) --> A_C_Link
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AM O'Conner 2006

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

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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

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What do you think the community said?

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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?

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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

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