



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Dementia Care

Professor Lesley Wilkes, Professor Debra Jackson, School of Nursing N-FORCE Research Group together with partner investigator Marie Clarke, Sydney West Area Health Service, have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to investigate current behavioural care management of people with delirium and/or dementia.



In partnership with the Sydney West Area Health Service, the research team will develop best practice guidelines for evidence based care of people in confused states, with a focus on acute care for patients with dementia in western Sydney.

Professor Wilkes says 'Outcomes from the study will provide the Sydney West Area Health Service with an enhanced understanding of existing behavioural models of care for people with delirium and/or dementia. The study will also provide practical data to assist in the future development of a best practice model of care for these people, and inform other acute care settings both nationally and internationally.'

The project will be conducted in phases, beginning with a literature review of relevant behavioural care models operating in acute care settings, followed by interviews of health care professionals who work with confused older people, and family members who have relatives with dementia and/or delirium, to ascertain perceptions, viability, and success of current practices and opinions on possible best practice models.

It is also intended that such findings will be integrated into education programs where aged care forms a significant part of the curriculum and core practitioner knowledge, such as nursing, occupational therapy, traditional Chinese medicine, and psychology.

Project Title: *Determining Best Practice for the Management of People with Dementia and/or Delirium in Acute Care*

Funding has been set at: \$4,998
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For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:
<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devinti/ors/fundingopps/internalgrants>