Culturally and Linguistically Diverse People Living With Dementia in Rural and Remote Australia

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31% people born overseas live in major cities

Overseas born make up 14% of people living in inner regional areas
  ◦ 14% in outer areas
  ◦ 13% in remote areas
  ◦ 8% in very remote areas
Remote is used as an umbrella term to refer to people living at distance from health care and other support services.

Remote is used here in a more generalised term as one of the defining factors of geographical remoteness is that many services are less accessible.
Living in a remote area has for many an impact on health status.
Staffing and Services

- Availability of services
- Distances travelled
- Turnover of staff
- Availability of specialists
- Language support
Dementia statistics

12.4% of Australians with Dementia around 1:8 do not speak English at home.

(Access Economics, Dementia prevalence & incidence among Australians who do not speak English at home, November 2006)
Lack of services in remote areas

- Counselling
- Advocacy
- Support groups
- Personal care
- Domestic assistance
- Respite
- Residential
Old age, senility, madness, mental illness
Research needs

Limited evidence based research on the needs of CALD communities in remote Australia with a particular focus on dementia needs
Needs of CALD communities in remote Australia

- Limited family support
- Limited culturally and linguistically supported services
- Relocation/ placement difficult
- Small communities are invisible
- Access to specialist services
Barriers

- Poor knowledge and access to services
- Lack of understanding of dementia
- Stigma
- Isolation and dependence
- Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs
- Access to specialised health professionals