Dementia-an emergency services response
People aged 65 years and over are the highest fire risk group nationally.

In the MFB’s area of regional responsibility they account for 45% of all fire deaths.
Dementia—an emergency services response

- According to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing over 5,000 separate agencies deliver services to older people living in the community.

- 1,000 of these are in Victoria alone.

- It is beyond the capacity of fire services to individually identify and develop relationships with every provider in their area of regional responsibility.
Basic home fire safety information identified for inclusion in the Community Services Training Packages

- Identification of high fire risk groups
- Home fire safety prevention
- Smoke Alarms including types, placement, maintenance
Basic home fire safety information is now included in 9 separate units of competency which are part of 49 separate qualifications across a range of disciplines including:

- case management
- care coordination
- aged care
- home and community care
- disability services
- community work and community development
- active volunteering
The identifier strip is a weather proof strip with the name and contact number of the community services provider.

**COMMUNITY CARE  1800 000 000**

The strip would be placed external to the home in a discreet location such as the electricity meter box.
Dementia – an emergency services response

- During initial needs assessment, community care recipients and/or their carers would be advised of the identifier strip and its purpose.

- Participation would be on a self/carer/or guardian nomination basis only.

- The community care agency would provide and place an agency-specific identifier strip
Dementia – an emergency services response

- Protocols would be based on maximising the privacy of the participant.

- During an emergency the responder would check to see an identifier strip was installed.

- The responder would notify the community agency of the nature of the emergency and what action they are taking.

- The community agency would advise of their response.
The identifier strip:

- delivers an outcome for individuals by quickly and passively reinforcing their connection with established supports

- does not depend on emergency services to identify, develop and maintain relationships with a complex network of programs and providers

- Provides early advice to community care agencies on changing needs
Dementia – an emergency services response

Current status:

- endorsed by fire services nationally via the peak fire services body, the Australasian Fire Authorities Council

- preliminary consultation in Victoria with police and community care providers

- next step is formal consultation nationally with government, emergency services, people affected by dementia and their carers
Dementia – an emergency services response

Questions?

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ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

ALL SMOKE ALARMS MUST BE REPLACED AFTER TEN YEARS