DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

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WHAT IS A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY (DFS)

"cohesive system of support that recognises the experiences of the person with dementia and best provides assistance for the person to remain engaged in everyday life in a meaningful way"
WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR DFS?

A national population survey in Australia found that:

- 44% of people believe that people with dementia are treated unfairly or discriminated against
- 22% of people indicated that they would feel uncomfortable spending time with people with dementia

A pilot study completed last year found that:

- 60% of people said if they received a diagnosis of dementia they would feel shame and nearly half said they would be humiliated.
- One third said they found people with dementia irritating
- 10% would actively avoid spending time with a person with dementia
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AUSTRALIA

Dementia Cafes

Dementia Choirs

Memory Books projects

Count us in- play group

Dementia Enabling Environments Program

Is it Dementia- National Community Workers Training Resource
IS IT DEMENTIA

A resource for recognising the signs of dementia.

Please select your industry to begin:
WHAT IS HAPPENING OVERSEAS

Many initiatives- but UK is leading the way

UK Prime Minister David Cameron challenge on dementia in 2012 included focus on creating dementia friendly communities and organisations
UK RECOGNITION PROCESS

Set of flexible standards and values

Symbol to denote ‘working towards becoming dementia friendly’

Set out plan to implement standards

Self Assessment process- involving people with dementia

Option to withdraw symbol/status if standards are not being met
UK VALUES

We believe that people with dementia and their carers have the right to:

1. Live their life in a way that meets their needs.
2. Engage in and contribute to their local communities as long as they wish to do so.
3. Live alongside people who have an awareness and understanding of dementia.
4. Live their lives free from stigma.
5. Access the information, support and services that they need.
Our organisation is working towards:

1. Ensuring the support of senior members of staff, for example a manager or director.
2. Analysing the key issues to address to enable them to become dementia friendly in ways that are important to people with the condition and carers.
3. Involving people with dementia and their carers in understanding what dementia friendly means and in the self-assessment process.
4. Identifying ways to raise dementia awareness and understanding amongst appropriate personnel.
5. Providing information on dementia and available services and support (as appropriate to the organisation).
6. Seeking to share information and learning with other organisations or communities working to become dementia friendly.
UK STANDARDS FOR A COMMUNITY

Our community is working towards:

1. Developing a local Dementia Action Alliance (or a similar group). To include the support of a recognised, senior local leader(s) for example, a head of local business or a local council leader.
2. Analysing the key issues to address to enable them to become dementia friendly in ways that are important to people with the condition and carers.
3. Involving people with dementia and their carers in understanding what dementia friendly means and in the self-assessment process.
4. Identifying which individuals, businesses and organisations are a priority to undertake dementia awareness and understanding training.
5. Providing information on dementia and available services and support from a range of outlets (as considered appropriate, for example library, pharmacy or GP surgery).
6. Seeking to share information and learning with other organisations or communities working to become dementia friendly.
NEXT STEPS
Subject to funding....

• Work in partnership with ALGA to develop strategic approach
• Host speaker from UK to talk about the Dementia Friendly Communities/Organisations in the UK
• Consultation Process to develop recognition process for dementia friendly communities/organisations in Australia
• Work with other organisations including World Health Organisation and Alzheimer’s Disease International to share experiences