



Agents of Change

Creating National Quality Collaboratives to improve dementia care

Newsletter - January 2018

Welcome

Issue 1, January 2018

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the *Agents of Change* project! We are very excited about this project and the opportunity it brings to translate research evidence about dementia care into practice. Quality Improvement Collaboratives are becoming a more popular method of knowledge translation, as they provide clinicians with a structured community in which to learn, share ideas, and get support. We are thrilled to already have a number of clinicians from a variety of professional backgrounds and settings on board, and look forward to completing our recruitment soon. The clinicians will be supported by an experienced team of clinical, consumer, and quality improvement experts to create and implement their own unique plan to improve their practice. It will be wonderful to watch the clinicians be creative in developing their plans, and to see the positive impact they can have on their clients with dementia and their carers.

- Dr Kate Laver, project lead

In this edition:

- Welcome**
- Meet the team**
- Support team**
- What is *Agents of Change*?**
- Project progress**
- Nominate an Agent of Change**

Meet the team



Agents of Change is driven by a small but enthusiastic project team, led by NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Fellow Dr Kate Laver. Kate is an experienced occupational therapist and senior researcher. Kate previously coordinated development of the 2016 *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Dementia Care in Australia* and leads a number of projects aiming to improve care for older people.

The project coordinator, Monica Cations, is a provisional psychologist and research fellow with many years of experience working with people with dementia and their carers, including with Dementia Australia. Gorjana Radisic has worked in biomedical and public health research, and will assist with project coordination. We are also pleased to soon be welcoming a PhD candidate to the project - stay tuned for that announcement!

Support team

Agents of Change is supported by a large and experienced group of researchers, clinicians, people with dementia, and their carers. We will introduce you to a selection of the support team in each quarterly newsletter to follow.

Investigator team:

- Professor Anneke Fitzgerald (Griffith University)
- Professor Maria Crotty (Flinders University)
- Professor Sue Kurrle (University of Sydney)
- Professor Ian Cameron (University of Sydney)
- Associate Professor Craig Whitehead (Flinders University)
- Dr Jane Thompson (Flinders University)
- Associate Professor Billingsley Kaambwa (Flinders University)
- Dr Gaery Barberry (Griffith University)

Clinical, consumer, industry experts:

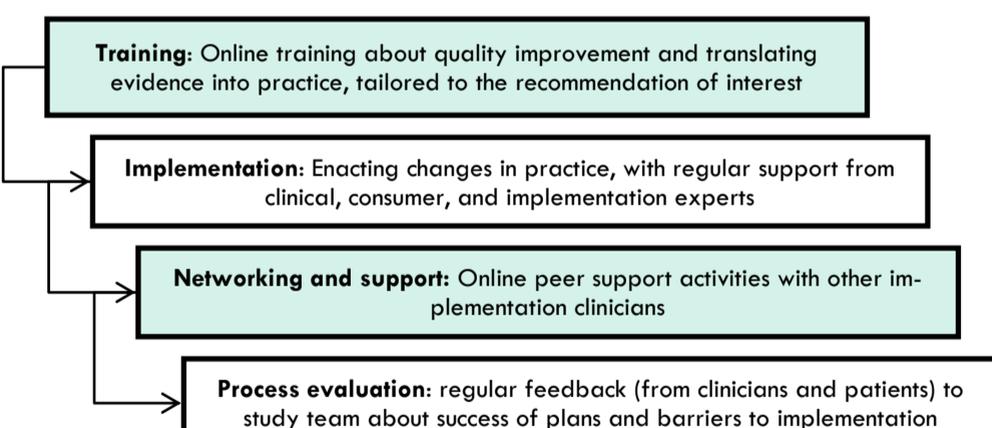
- John Quinn
- Glenys Petrie
- Ian Gladstone
- Nadine Hedger
- Gary Collins
- Mae Collins
- Alison Pennington
- Megan Corlis
- Wendy Hudson
- Dr Kate Hayes

What is *Agents of Change*?

Agents of Change was recently funded by the NHMRC Boosting Dementia Research Grants and NHMRC Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre. The project aims to improve the implementation of three key recommendations from the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Dementia in Australia*:

Recommendation 1:	Recommendation 2:	Recommendation 3:
“People with dementia living in the community should be offered occupational therapy (reflecting evidence based programs)”	“People with dementia should be strongly encouraged to exercise”	“Carers and family should have access to programs to support and optimise their ability to provide care for the person with dementia (including respite)”

This will be achieved by establishing a **national online quality collaborative** in which health professionals across Australia are trained and supported to be their own ‘agents of change’, and develop and enact an implementation plan addressing one of the recommendations. Participating will include:



We hope that by developing and enacting changes in practice that are appropriate and deliverable within their existing resources, clinicians will make sustainable improvements in care that can diffuse to others in their workplace.

Project progress

	Nov 2017	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	Aug 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2019
Ethics approval	×					
Implementation clinician recruitment		●				
Orientation			●			
Training				●		
Implementation of plans					●	
Results dissemination						●

● = Expected, × = Completed

Nominate an Agent of Change!

Do you know a motivated and passionate health professional working with people with dementia? We are recruiting registered health professionals from all professional backgrounds (medical, nursing, allied health) and all settings to become implementation clinicians. **Participating will fulfil all CPD requirements for 18 months**, and professionals will have access to a \$1000 stipend to present their work at a conference or meeting of their choice. Get in contact with Monica Cations (project coordinator) for more information.

Contact

For any questions or comments about *Agents of Change*, contact Monica Cations on (08) 7221 8338 or at monica.cations@sa.gov.au

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Agents of Change is hosted by Flinders University. Funding is provided by the NHRMC National Institute for Dementia Research, and the NHMRC Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre.

