Developing a Best Practice Dementia Care Model in Acute Care.

Mary Bray, Allied Health Assistant
My Background

- Early Beginnings
- Qualifications.
- Initiated and ran a Dementia Care Program in a Hostel Setting.
- Southern Health Dandenong and Casey hospital.
Why focus on dementia in hospital?

- Australia is an ageing community.
- Increase in dementia – worldwide
- Significant impact on financial cost to health care
- Older patients at increased risk of adverse events in acute care (Cassidy, Davies et al. 2001)
- Increase in carer stress and fewer carers available in future.
- Increase in admission to residential care post an acute admission for patients with dementia.
What did we do?

- Various staff surveys and audits.
- Began a dementia and delirium working party.

Main requests of staff was for education and improvement in the environment in acute care.

ALLIED HEALTH ASSISTANT WAS A PART OF ALL STEPS IN PROCESS
CASEY DELIRIUM AND DEMENTIA WORKING PARTY
(Commenced in 2008)
AHA Role in acute setting:

- Conducted education for all non clinical staff.
- Helped develop behavior manual for wards.
- Attended weekly behavior forums.
- Established sensory room.
- Involved in development of activity boxes.
- Role modeled best practice dementia care.
- Presented at Alzheimer’s Australia conference 2011
Other daily tasks:

Following specific patients management plans:-

- Support ADL’s
- 1-1 Care
- Groups

ACTIVITIES ARE ALWAYS ADAPTED TO SPECIFIC PATIENTS NEEDS

care | Southern Health
Equipment Provided to assist Patients.

- Activity boxes
- Manuals
- Sensory room
- Signage
Sensory Room

- Sensory room – which we opened in 2010

AHA led relaxation, hand massage and music activities
Case study

- Past history
- Presentation
- Issues of concern
- Interventions
- Outcome
Challenges

**Time**
Developing resources and monitoring usage takes time.

**Education**
Staff turnover. New staff are educated, and ongoing for existing staff.

**Staff**
As an AHA it has been a challenge to share my knowledge and carry out my daily duties.

ALL THIS WORK IS ONGOING
IN THE ACUTE HOSPITAL SETTING
References and Thank-you

- Mary Bray, My own experiences


- Sandra MacGuire, Pam Hegarty, Mary Bray, Rebecca Hamilton & Debbie Roe, Creating a Dementia Friendly Environment in an Acute Care Setting, (2011)

Thank You

Mary Bray