

Title	Provide person-centred care when supporting a person with early-stage dementia in a health or wellbeing setting		
Level	3	Credits	8

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is for people providing services in a health or wellbeing setting.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the early warning signs and impact of early-stage dementia on a person; and provide person-centred support to a person with early-stage dementia to promote their wellbeing.</p>
----------------	--

Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Older Persons' Health and Wellbeing
-----------------------	--

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation and codes relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to: Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996 (the Code of Rights); Health Information Privacy Code 1994; Human Rights Act 1993; Privacy Act 1993.
- 2 New Zealand Standard relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to: NZS 8158:2012 *Home and community support sector Standard*; available at <http://www.standards.co.nz/>.
- 3 Definitions

Cognition refers to the mental processes involved in gaining and applying knowledge and comprehension. These processes include thinking, knowing, remembering, judging, and problem-solving, and encompass language, imagination, sensory perception, planning and the initiation or inhibition of behaviour.

Dementia refers to a group of symptoms affecting cognition, behaviour and social abilities severely enough to interfere with daily functioning that occurs as a result of physical changes in the structure of the brain. Dementia indicates problems with at least two brain functions, such as memory loss and impaired judgment or language, and the inability to perform some daily activities. Many causes of dementia symptoms exist, such as Alzheimer's disease or a series of strokes. Early-stage dementia describes the beginning stages of dementia regardless of the age of the person. Early-stage dementia is different to young-onset dementia which describes a person who develops dementia at between 40 to 50 years of age.

Health or wellbeing setting includes but is not limited to – the aged care, acute care, community support, disability, mental health, and social services sectors.

Mild cognitive impairment is when the thinking functions of the brain such as memory, language, attention and problem solving are not as good as what they once were but they do not significantly interfere with daily life and are not severe enough to make a diagnosis of dementia.

Person – a person accessing services. Other terms used for the person may include client, consumer, customer, patient, individual, resident, service user, turoro or tangata whai ora.

Person-centred support – focuses on a person's individuality, relationships, needs, communication, feelings, and abilities; and takes a holistic view of the person's situation as the starting point for determining the type and level of support to be provided.

Restorative support refers to support based on honouring strengths, maximising independence and supporting active participation based on goals identified by the person and the accomplishment of those goals.

Wellbeing refers to a sense of feeling good and the ability to function well. Wellbeing is not just the absence of disease or illness; it involves a complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional and social health factors that support their quality of life.

4 Primary references include:

Alzheimers New Zealand's website – <http://www.alzheimers.org.nz/>,

Dementia Australia's website – <https://www.dementia.org.au/>,

Alzheimers Society United Kingdom's website – <http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>

New Zealand Framework for Dementia Care, (Wellington: Ministry of Health, 2013); available at <https://www.health.govt.nz/>,

Mental Health and Addiction Services for Older People and Dementia Services: Guideline for district health boards on an integrated approach to mental health and addiction services for older people and dementia services for people of any age, (Wellington: Ministry of Health, 2011); available at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/>,

Dementia in New Zealand: Improving quality in residential care – A report to the Disability Issues Directorate, (Wellington; Ministry of Health, 2002) available at <https://www.health.govt.nz/>,

The Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center's website – <https://www.nia.nih.gov/>,

World Health Organization's website – <http://www.who.int/topics/dementia/en/>.

- 5 Outcome 2 of this unit standard cannot be assessed against in a simulated environment. For assessment, candidates must demonstrate competence in the workplace through paid or unpaid employment, or in placements in a service provider workplace negotiated by an education provider.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the early warning signs and impact of early-stage dementia on a person.

Performance criteria

1.1 The early warning signs of dementia are described.

Range may include but is not limited to – memory loss, difficulty performing familiar tasks, problems with language, disorientation with time and place, poor or decreased judgement, problems with abstract thinking, misplacing things, changes in mood or behaviour, changes in personality, loss of initiative; evidence is required of three early warning signs.

1.2 Methods of seeking a diagnosis for undiagnosed dementia are identified.

Range may include but is not limited to – manager or supervisor, health professional, GP.

1.3 The impact a diagnosis of dementia has on a person is described.

1.4 The physical, emotional, spiritual, social, environmental, and safety needs of a person displaying mild cognitive impairment are described.

Outcome 2

Provide person-centred support to a person with early-stage dementia to promote their wellbeing.

Performance criteria

2.1 A person with early-stage dementia is assisted to make decisions about their own care.

Range must include - using communication that is positive and not judgemental; providing an individualised approach; not challenging; honouring their strengths; maximising their independence; supporting active participation.

2.2 A person with early-stage dementia is provided with support.

Range support provided is consistent with contemporary approaches and contracted requirements, such as restorative support; support is appropriate to the physical, emotional, spiritual, social, environmental, and safety needs of a person and their family/whanau.

Planned review date	31 December 2021
----------------------------	------------------

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	27 January 2015	N/A
Rollover and Revision	2	26 September 2019	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0024
--	------

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Careerforce info@careerforce.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.