

## Supporting families of people living with dementia

**Wednesday 3rd May 2017, 7:15 – 8:30pm AEST**

### **Dr Alison Argo (QLD Geropsychologist)**

Alison is a clinical psychologist who specialises in gerontology which is the scientific study of the biological, psychological, and sociological phenomena that are associated with old age and aging. She initially became interested in the elderly population during her honours year in 1998 when she was researching cognition in people with Parkinson's disease, and has never looked back.



She has worked for Queensland Health since 2001, primarily in positions focusing on cognitive assessment for differential diagnosis of dementia, older persons' mental health, and carer education and support. Alison has worked across various settings including regional and remote settings, and in acute inpatient and community settings. For several years she also enjoyed lecturing a dementia specific course for TAFE Certificate III students in rural north Queensland. Later on, she jointly ran the Memory Clinic at Ipswich Hospital with the consultant psychiatrist of the Older Persons Mental Health Service. She is a long-standing member of the steering committee for the Queensland Statewide Dementia Clinical Network which plays its part in; informing government policy; ensuring consistent state-wide treatment and access to treatment; disseminating dementia research and initiatives; and advocating for people with dementia and their family and carers.

Alison is passionate about all things dementia. She has a particular interest in assisting people with dementia and their family and carers to remain living a rich and meaningful life in the community for as long as possible. This role sees her assisting doctors with early/timely diagnosis, assessing decision-making capacity, and providing care co-ordination as well as one-on-one carer education and support. She also enjoys opportunities for teaching and training other health professionals and looks forward to becoming involved in further research on dementia in the future.

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### **Associate Professor Stephen Macfarlane (VIC Psychiatrist)**

Dr Steve Macfarlane graduated from Monash University in 1991 and spent the next 17 years at Peninsula Health, prior to becoming a psychiatrist in 2003 and being appointed Director of Aged Psychiatry in 2005. In 2008 he spent some time on secondment as Deputy Chief Psychiatrist for Victoria prior to being appointed as Associate Professor and Director of Aged Psychiatry at Alfred Health, where he remained until formally joining HammondCare in 2016 as Head of Clinical Services for The Dementia Centre.



Steve has been active in Alzheimer's disease clinical trials since the late 1990's, working initially with Professor Colin Masters at The Mental Health Research Institute before setting up his own clinical trials centre based at Caulfield Hospital. His clinical interests include frontal lobe disorders and senile squalor.

Steve has been an ongoing participant in public radio since 1995, and was co-founder of the long-running Sunday morning medical programme on 102.7 3RRR-FM in Melbourne, where he presents a regular segment on psychiatry in film.

### **Professor Dimity Pond (NSW GP)**

Professor Dimity Pond is head of the Discipline of General Practice at the University of Newcastle. She has also been a GP in clinical practice since 1984. She has spent around 20 years working on research in the area of dementia, mainly on how to streamline the GP approach to this difficult and increasingly common problem. She is currently working on GP consensus guidelines for common GP aspects of dementia identification and care.



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### **Alissa Westphal (VIC Occupational Therapist)**

Alissa Westphal is a registered Occupational Therapist employed by the University of Melbourne's Academic Unit for Psychiatry of Old Age as a Lecturer in Dementia Care.

She has completed honors research in the use of multi-sensory therapy in dementia care in addition to post graduate qualifications in Applied Statistics. Alissa has extensive experience in aged mental health and has a special interest in utilising non-pharmacological approaches to more effectively enable, engage and care for those with dementia that experience behavioural and psychological symptoms. She actively conducts research and enjoys presenting and providing education nationally and internationally. Alissa is the author of a number of publications including the chapter "Occupational Therapy in Dementia Care" in the 5th edition of "Dementia", edited by Professors Ames, Burns and O'Brien.



### **Facilitator: Dr Konrad Kangru (QLD GP)**

Dr Konrad Kangru gained his MBBS from University of Queensland in 2000, has been in private Rural General Practice in the Whitsundays region of Queensland since 2005, where he has been a GP Supervisor and Medical Educator since 2009. He has remained a very active advocate for improving the support of rural doctors, especially through the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, having convened their 2011 and 2015 conferences. Dr Kangru has also undertaken and presented his research on the Self-Care of rural doctors, and has special interests in Medical Education and Diabetes management, particularly in up-skilling colleagues about this important condition.



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