A34 - Developing an evidence-based interdisciplinary cross-setting dementia care competency framework

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BACKGROUND:
The DCRC Dementia Implementation Plan and the NSW Ministry of Health developed a cross-setting inter-disciplinary Dementia Care Competency Framework (DCCF).

METHODS:
The Dementia Care Competency Framework (DCCF) was developed from an online consultation process consisting of five rounds comprising responses from 532 practitioners. The participants were nurses (Enrolled Nurses and Registered Nurses) (51%); allied health practitioners (all disciplines represented) (21%); dementia advisors and community dementia care services (8%); and team leaders in residential accommodation (3%). They worked in community (31%), acute (32%), and residential accommodation (37%) settings, and represented metropolitan (50%), regional (24%), and rural regions (17%). More than a quarter had a Masters degree or higher (28%).

RESULTS:
The DCCF consists of 10 core competencies:
1. Facilitating Person-Centred and Ethical Care (Roots - Personhood);
2. Working with Families/Informal Carers (Roots - Personhood);
3. Understanding Living with Dementia (Roots - Personhood);
4. Effectively Communicating (Roots - Personhood);
5. Recognising Dementia (Trunk - Perception);
6. Assuring Diversity and Inclusivity (Trunk - Perception);
7. Promoting Health and Well-Being (Trunk - Perception);
8. Enabling the Activities of Daily Living (Branches - Partnership);
9. Implementing Therapeutic Activities (Branches - Partnership); and
10. Promoting a Positive Environment (Branches - Partnership).

There are 43 specific domains of practice which describe dementia care work with individuals living with a dementia and their family carers. Each of these domains of practice are described as one of three levels of dementia care practice: essential (14); enhanced (22); and expert (4). The Dementia Care Network website hosts the DCCF, including guidelines to develop portfolios of evidence to demonstrate competence in the DCCF domains of practice, complete online competence assessment activities and document action plans for generating evidence to demonstrate current or future competence in dementia care.

A pilot DCCF implementation project is being undertaken nationally by D8MAS practitioners who are developing portfolios of evidence to demonstrate their competence in dementia care.