

CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS AND DEMENTIA

Benefits to early diagnosis and management

ONE-YEAR DELAY IN NURSING HOME PLACEMENT ALONE SAVES \$30 MILLION

Earlier diagnosis of dementia and improved treatment and care keeps people with dementia living successfully in the community for longer, delaying or avoiding admissions to aged and acute care facilities



NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS DETECT EARLY COGNITIVE CHANGES WITH AN ACCURACY OF 90%

Commonly used screening tools only correctly identify 50% of people with dementia

CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS

Specialists in assessment and rehabilitation of the cognitive, emotional and behavioural consequences of brain conditions like dementia.



LIMITED ACCESS

There is an urgent need for state and federal governments to provide funds and resources to universities to train clinical neuropsychologists, and to health services to employ a clinical neuropsychology workforce across metropolitan, regional and rural areas to meet the needs of people with brain conditions such as dementia.

CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS CAN:

- CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS TO DETECT COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT/SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA EARLY AND FACILITATE ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS
- IDENTIFY THE BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CAUSES OF COGNITIVE, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES
- WHEN NEEDED, ASSESS DECISION MAKING CAPACITY IN RELATION TO LIFESTYLE, FINANCIAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
- ASSIST IDENTIFYING SUPPORT NEEDS, AS WELL AS FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES
- GUIDE PERSON-CENTRED TREATMENT PLANNING AND INTERVENTION, AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDICAL, NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH TEAM MEMBERS TO TAILOR THEIR THERAPIES
- DELIVER PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIES FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND OTHER EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES, ADAPTED SO THEY ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS
- PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR BEHAVIOURS OF CONCERN, BY WORKING WITH PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILY AND SUPPORT NETWORK