

# Planning dementia care through case conferencing

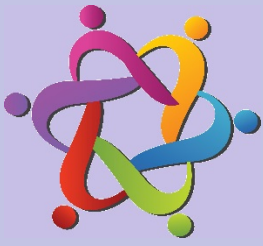
## Duty description and key competencies for case conference facilitator

### Major Responsibilities

- Identify residents with advanced dementia whose individual care needs require a case conference to develop a plan for palliative care.
- Identify important decision-makers and invite these to case conferences scheduled according to their availability. As well as family and facility nursing staff, decision-makers may include carers and allied health staff from the facility and external health professionals (e.g. general practitioners).
- Set the agenda for case conferences based on input from participants and a review of residents' recent history, strengths and needs.
- Facilitate case conferences to ensure agenda items are covered, including discussion of prognosis and planning of end of life care where appropriate.
- Maintain detailed records of case conferences and palliative care plans containing confidential information.
- Train and mentor facility nursing staff in organising and running case conferences and planning/implementing palliative care for residents with advanced dementia.

### Skills and Attributes

- Highly developed skills in interpersonal communication with residents with dementia, family members, care staff and other health professionals.
- Sensitivity to family emotional wellbeing in relation to discussions and decision-making in the context of advanced illness and palliative care.
- Commitment to working in partnership with families and other providers to improve end of life care for residents with advanced dementia living in aged care.
- Capacity for training staff in brief group education sessions and mentoring them over time.
- Skills in clinical report writing.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment to ensure workload is planned appropriately and meets agreed timelines.



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## Knowledge

- Knowledge of the Australian aged care sector, its operating philosophy and the Aged Care Standards
- Understanding of clinical issues relating to advanced dementia and palliative care.

## Qualifications

- Training and certificate to practise in nursing or other health-related field.

## Experience

- Employment in the aged care sector, preferably the facility at which the coordinator will be based.
- Previous experience in community change/capacity-building activities through self-help groups, support groups, aid agencies or similar is desirable.