



Dementia Engagement Modelling Program

**A free support service for aged care providers
impacted by COVID-19**

**Funded by the Australian Government
A service led by HammondCare**



What is the Dementia Engagement Modelling program? (DEMP)

Residential aged care providers across Australia have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and, at times, have had to make difficult decisions to keep staff and residents safe. This has included lockdowns or restricting visits from family and friends and cancelling services from non-essential staff and volunteers.

In many cases, this has had significant emotional, psychological and physical impacts on residents, particularly those living with dementia, due to limited opportunities for engagement with family, friends and other support networks. In order to mitigate this, the Federal Government has created an Aged Care COVID-19 Grief and Trauma support package for older people receiving aged care, their families and aged care staff.

The **Dementia Engagement Modelling Program (DEMP)** is part of this package. It has been designed to help staff support residents whose wellbeing has been affected by COVID-19 with tailored engagement strategies.

A free service developed by Dementia Support Australia (DSA), it works in parallel with initiatives from Phoenix Australia, the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement and the Older Person's Advocacy Network.

What does the service provide?

DEMP is a first line of support for people living with dementia in residential aged care who may have become withdrawn, frustrated or fearful and are at risk of developing behaviours and psychological symptoms of dementia as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

The service delivers best practice, person-centred engagement strategies to support staff to provide meaningful engagement, comfort and reassurance to residents living with dementia. DEMF will work collaboratively with lifestyle and care staff to develop tailored activities and provide appropriate resources for engagement.

DEMF will also provide support and coaching to staff for the individual or small groups to ensure that both staff and residents gain the full benefit from the program.

“ We would like to thank you all for such wonderful support when we needed it the most. Big thank you to all your team, much appreciated. ”

KB, Director of Nursing Aged Care Home





Tailored resources

The Dementia Engagement Modelling Program will provide individualised activities, equipment and services designed to engage and bring comfort to people living with dementia. The DEMP consultant will work together with the care home to identify and understand the needs of the residents and the care team.

Individualised resource kits will be tailored to meet these needs. The DEMP consultant will support staff to use these resources effectively in order to achieve the best outcome for the residents and care home.

Are you eligible?

DEMP is free for care homes which meet the following criteria.



Your care home either experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 or was subject to a precautionary lockdown.



You are looking for engagement plans and strategies for residents who are:

- living with dementia, or suspected of having dementia, or
- are at risk of developing changed behaviours, or are experiencing mild behaviours and psychological symptoms of dementia, as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

How to Refer

For more information or to express your interest, contact us 24/7, 365 days

 **1800 699 799**

 dsa@dementia.com.au

 dementia.com.au

 Live chat

We look forward to supporting both your staff and your residents.

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