

# LGBTI module - Disclaimer & overview

## Disclaimer

This eLearning module and fact sheets are provided for general information only and do not claim to reflect all considerations.

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- The Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration (DCRC) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney does not seek to provide professional or medical advice on any specific matter. As with all guidelines, recommendations may not be appropriate for use in all circumstances. Care providers should also consult guidelines provided to them by deploying or responsible agencies.
- This eLearning module and fact sheets incorporate information from the most recent literature and other sources. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information in this eLearning module and fact sheets at the time of publication.
- Links to Internet Sites and resources are also identified; however these represent only a selection of those available. Links to other Internet Sites that are not under the control of the DCRC are provided for information purposes only.
- Care has been taken in providing these links as suitable reference resources. However, due to the changing nature of Internet content, it is the responsibility of users to make their own investigations, decisions and enquiries about any

information retrieved from other Internet sites. The provision and inclusion of these links do not imply any endorsement, non-endorsement, support or commercial gain by UNSW Sydney.

### Responsibility

- While this eLearning module and fact sheets were prepared after an extensive review of the literature, review by an expert advisory committee and broad consultation, the responsibility for clinical decisions is borne by the clinician; the authors do not bear any clinical responsibility.
- The DCRC at UNSW Sydney does not accept any liability for any injury, loss or damage incurred by use of or reliance on the information.
- The information in these documents is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. If this information raises questions or concerns regarding care providers' personal health they should always seek the advice of a qualified health professional.

### Module overview

- This eLearning module and fact sheets have been developed to inform those providing care to people with dementia of the additional considerations required when caring for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) peoples who present with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD).

# Disclaimer & overview

- Terms such as changed behaviours, responsive behaviours, behaviours of concern, behavioural and psychological changes in dementia and others are also used to describe BPSD (1).
  - These terms aim to raise awareness of a person with dementia's behavioural expression or psychological response to a situation which requires intervention. Recognising and understanding the multiple underlying factors that are potentially contributing to the BPSD will help to identify the most appropriate intervention.
- \*Note:** Being a person who is L, G, B, T or I is NOT a choice, a mental or physical illness or related to inappropriate behaviour. BPSD are not linked to LGBTI peoples' identities. BPSD are influenced by a person with dementia's history, personal experiences, those around them and their living environment.
- The target audience for this resource is care staff and health professionals working in all aged care and related settings, including residential, community and acute services.
  - While awareness of the special needs of people who identify as LGBTI living with dementia in aged care is increasing (2, 3), information on additional considerations for managing BPSD in LGBTI peoples is currently lacking (4, 5).
  - This module is based on a comprehensive search of the academic and grey literature relevant to LGBTI people with dementia and consultation with consumers, experts and those experienced in providing services to LGBTI people with dementia.
- The additional considerations outlined in this eLearning resource are aligned with the evidence and practice-based principles included in the document *Behaviour Management, A Guide to Good Practice, Managing Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia* (BPSD Guide; 6) and associated resources.
  - This eLearning module is not about changing personal beliefs. It is about professional practices in the workplace and ensuring that LGBTI peoples with dementia receive inclusive, person-centred care.
  - While it is important to treat all clients, residents and patients with respect, 'treating everyone the same' ignores the challenges faced by LGBTI people and the fact that to achieve equality in services we need to recognise and respond to these unique differences (7-9).
  - Person-centred LGBTI inclusive care in all community, residential and acute contexts requires an awareness that each person has a different lived experience and individual needs (10, 11).
  - The aim of this resource is to provide background information on the lived experiences of LGBTI peoples which can influence the presentation of BPSD and the additional considerations relevant to their care. It does not aim to provide comprehensive information on the principles of managing BPSD.
  - We recommend eLearning participants also access the suite of resources developed by DCRC and Dementia Training Australia (DTA) for clinicians,

# Disclaimer & overview

direct care staff and family carers to assist in the management of BPSD via:

[www.dementia.unsw.edu.au/bpsdguide](http://www.dementia.unsw.edu.au/bpsdguide) and <https://www.dementiatrainingaustralia.com.au/>

## Key Learning Objectives

After completing this eLearning module participants will be able to:

1. recognise the factors that contribute to the specific needs of LGBTI peoples with dementia and how these relate to the principles of managing BPSD
2. outline the additional considerations required when providing care to LGBTI peoples who present with BPSD as well as those providing support
3. identify the impact of the following on the presentation and management of BPSD:
  - personal history and lived experience
  - physical and mental health
  - care environment, including staff, visitors and other clients, patients or residents
  - care relationships including the person with dementia's family of choice and biological family
  - communication and interaction with others
4. recognise the challenges and enablers to implementing LGBTI inclusive care practices in their workplace
5. identify culturally appropriate strategies they can support LGBTI inclusive care practices.

## References

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Consultation for all aspects of this project was undertaken with consumers, Government representatives, LGBTI peak bodies, researchers, experts and those experienced in providing services to LGBTI peoples with dementia. An advisory group was established to provide expert guidance throughout the project. See xx for details.

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