

Centre	DCRC – Assessment and Better Care
Partner Institution	Aged Mental Health Research Unit, Monash University
Project ID	
Project Name	Volunteer-facilitated implementation of personalised one-to-one activities with nursing home residents with dementia and agitated behaviour
Date of Proposal	15 August 2011

1. Investigator Details

Principal Investigator	
Title/Name	Dr Eva van der Ploeg
Institution	Aged Mental Health Research Unit, Monash University
Email address	Eva.vanderPloeg@monash.edu

First Associate Investigator	
Title/Name	Prof Daniel O'Connor
Institution	Aged Mental Health Research Unit, Monash University
Email address	Daniel.OConnor@monash.edu

Project Details

Project Objectives (max. 2)	To explore the feasibility and acceptability of volunteers engaging in one-to-one activities with nursing home with dementia and agitated behaviour. To study if assisting with activities elicits changes in volunteers' knowledge and attitudes regarding people with dementia.
Project Description (200 words max)	We will train volunteers in a psychosocial intervention that has been shown to elicit positive affect and engagement, and to reduce levels of agitation, in people with dementia. The volunteers will then be paired with a resident with a high frequency agitated behaviour. We will conduct in-depth, semi-structured interviews to check the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention from the volunteers' perspective and to measure changes in their knowledge and attitudes regarding people with dementia.
Research Plan	See attachment.
Ethics	Has this Project been approved by an ethics committee? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a – please say why
	If no, please indicate the current status of the application. Still in design phase. If yes, please give details (name of institution, date)

2. Timetable

Project Start Date	01/02/2012
Project End Date	01/02/2013

Milestones	
List a minimum of four milestones per year for progress reporting (e.g. completion of ethics, data collection, analysis, dissemination)	
First Milestone	Ethics submission
Expected Completion	01/02/2012
Second Milestone	Ethics approval
Expected Completion	01/04/2012
Third Milestone	Start data collection
Expected Completion	01/06/2012
Fourth Milestone	Complete data collection
Expected Completion	01/02/2013

3. Proposed Project Outputs

Academic Publications	1
Presentations	2
Guidelines/Recommendations	
Capacity Building	
Leverage (grant applications)	1 (e.g. NH&MRC or ARC Linkage)
Other	

4. Knowledge Translation

How will you translate research findings into practice?
<p>This pilot study will indicate if aged care volunteers are able and willing to implement interventions with nursing home residents with dementia and associated agitation. If the results are promising, we propose studying a larger sample of volunteers and residents and expanding our suite of outcome measures. If it emerges that volunteers can deliver effective therapeutic interventions to nursing home residents, this will greatly expand their role in aged care facilities in Australia and internationally.</p> <p>Participating facilities and family members will be provided on request with a summary of the results and with recommendations for the continuing use of personalised activities with individual residents.</p>

How do the expected outcomes of this project have the potential to improve current

practice? In what other ways can knowledge translation be enhanced for this project?

See above.

5. Consumer Involvement

Does this project offer the opportunity for consumer involvement?

Yes No

Family members will be consulted to establish an appropriate personalised activities program for each resident.

6. Linkages

Please list any project or staff linkages within administrating DCRC	None
Please list any project or staff linkages between DCRCs	None
Please list any linkages beyond the DCRCs	None

7. Funding

DCRC Funding for this project	
Salaries (itemised)	Project manager \$22,094 Research assistant \$1,690
Other (itemised)	Travel costs \$1,036 Activity materials \$200 Ipods and speakers \$1,645
Total	\$26,665

Please provide a brief justification for the above budget

Principal investigator Van der Ploeg will be responsible for the preparation of the activities and the training of the volunteers. We estimate this will take a full day per participant, necessitating 24 training days (assuming 4 drop outs). She will also apply for ethics approval; recruit facilities, volunteers and residents; obtain their consent; recruit and supervise research assistants; code interviews; analyse data, and write reports. She will devote 0.25 FTE to this project for one year: 0.25 x \$88,375 (including oncosts).

A research assistant (RA) will conduct the final interviews. Each interview will take 60 minutes to complete on average (20 hours). Scoring interviews and reaching consensus ratings will take another 16 hours. The current RA pay rate is \$46.96 per hour (including oncosts).

Travel: There will 2 round trips, each of 35km on average, to aged care facilities for each participating resident. Reimbursement is \$0.74 per km.

The preparation of activities will cost \$10 per participant. Additionally, we wish to purchase 5 iPods (\$179 each) and speakers (\$150 each) as music has been a major component in our recently completed Montessori study.

Non-DCRC Funding for this project	
Salaries (itemised)	None
Other (itemised)	None

In-kind Contributions to this project	
Please list	None

If this project is part of a larger project, for which funding has been sought or applied for, please list details below (Funding Body, Project Name, Amount, Relationship between Projects)
 N/A.

DCRC Management to complete		
DCRC-funded Project	DCRC-hosted Project	DCRC-supported project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Project Proposal Assessment

Depending on the nature of the project and the amount of funding sought, the DCRC might need to use an external reviewer. If so, we may contact you for suggestions.