**Abstract Submission 1 hour oral session**

**Title What skills are needed to communicate with people with dementia?**

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**Background People living with dementia have a range of cognitive deficits, depending on the severity and type of the disease. Most of these will prevent these people from expressing themselves fully and all of them will interfere with their ability to understand what the health professional is saying.**

**Aims 1. To review the cognitive deficits which prevent good communication in people living with dementia**

**2. To explore methods of breaking the news of dementia to people living with the disease**

**3. To explore methods of exploring health concerns and communicating management principles to people living with dementia, using enablement principles**

**4. To explore how to involve the carer in such communication, while maintaining respect for the person themselves**

**Method**

**A workshop will be held in which information will be given on the four topics above. Communication principles from Dementia Australia and from the literature will be discussed.**

**A series of cases will be discussed by the group, either as a large group or in smaller group format depending on numbers. These cases will involve issues around respect, competence, and communicating with paid and unpaid carers.**

**Principles of communication will be summarised from the discussion and fed back to the group.**

**Results**

**It is anticipated that people attending the workshop will have the chance to explore and further understand communication principles for people with dementia, and in particular the ethical and contextual features which may influence how best to communicate, including issues around competence**

**Conclusion**

**Good communication with people living with dementia presents many challenges in primary care, in particular how best to enable the person with dementia to feel respected and to have their viewpoint taken into account, while supporting them when necessary.**

**References** (If applicable)

Dementia Language Guidelines from Dementia Australia https://www.dementia.org.au/sites/default/files/NATIONAL/documents/language-guidelines-full.pdf