



2024 National Mental Health Webinar Series

Improving mental health for older people in residential aged care services

Why mental health in residential aged care matters

Aged care staff know the need for better mental health care for their residents. Older people in residential aged care services have a high prevalence of mental health disorders such as depression (affects at least 40 per cent of residents) and anxiety.

The rates of other mental health conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorders, psychosis, autism spectrum disorder and personality disorders are similar to those found in community dwellers.

Suicide, sexual violence and physical assault between residents are issues related to mental health and/or cognitive impairment that are becoming more visible and a challenge to prevent and manage.

A significant clinical gap beyond the control of residential aged care staff, is the limited access and availability of mental health professionals for managing complex and major mental health conditions. Australia's residential aged care services continue to operate under intense scrutiny while awaiting the reforms to address the gaps in care identified by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

This series of national webinars addresses five areas for improving mental health for older people in residential aged care.

Hear from experienced leaders in the mental health field

Developed by Professor Joseph Ibrahim with other experts in the area, the National Mental Health Webinar Series is presented as a joint collaboration between Uniting AgeWell; the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, La Trobe University; Binational Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age, the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne; School of Psychiatry, University New South Wales; Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing UNSW; Dementia Support Australia; Australian Association of Gerontology; Australian Disease Management Association; and the Residential Aged Care Communiqué.

The webinars will be run by experienced leaders in the mental health field in aged care. Each webinar will be facilitated by Professor Joseph Ibrahim and include a clinical case presentation, a keynote speaker and an interactive panel discussion.

Registration is free

Designed for Aged Care Staff,
Nurses, Managers, Allied Health
Professionals and Medical
Practitioners

Series topics

- > Access to mental health services
- > Wellness and social inclusion
- > Depression recognition and management
- > Mental health and dementia
- Mental health crises – suicide and other emergencies

Overview of the 2024 National Mental Health Webinar Series

Date	Topic	Keynote speaker
March 6 1pm – 2pm	Accessing Mental Health Services for Older People	Dr Terry Chong Psychiatrist and Clinician Researcher, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne
May 8 1pm – 2pm	Wellness and social inclusion	Prof Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh Director, Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care
July 3 1pm – 2pm	Depression recognition and management	Scientia Prof Henry Brodaty AO Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, University of New South Wales
September 4 1pm – 2pm	Mental health presentations in persons with dementia	Associate Prof Stephen Macfarlane Head of Clinical Services, The Dementia Centre, HammondCare
November 13 1pm – 2pm	Mental Health Crises: suicide and other emergencies	Prof Brian Draper AM Conjoint Professor, School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales

Keynote speakers



Dr Terry Chong

Psychiatrist and Clinician Researcher, Department of Psychiatry at University of Melbourne

Terry is a Senior Research Fellow – Psychiatry of Old Age at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Department of Psychiatry. He is involved in research around cognitive health and cognitive impairment as well as physical activity, anxiety and Huntington's disease. In 2018, he was awarded membership to the Melbourne Medical School Academy of Clinical Teachers, and he teaches medical students and psychiatrists in training through the Master of Psychiatry course. He advocates increasing community awareness of cognitive health, for example, in the media and community forums. He also practices as a psychiatrist at St Vincent's Health and Epworth Healthcare. In 2021, Terry was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Psychogeriatric Association.



Prof Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh

Director, Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, La Trobe University

Deirdre is the Director of the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC) and a Professor at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on translating research evidence into practice, the ethical implications of clinical practice, quality, safety and performance in residential aged care, decision-making for people with chronic conditions such as dementia or renal failure, sexuality and dementia and clinical risk in aged care. Deirdre's research is mainly undertaken in residential aged care services with aged care staff, residents and informal carers. Deirdre also develops and delivers education to health professionals and aged care workers.



Scientia Prof Henry Brodaty AO

Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Professor Brodaty AO is a researcher, clinician, policy advisor and strong advocate for people with dementia and their carers. At UNSW Sydney, he is a Scientia Professor of Ageing and Mental Health, Co-Director of the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, and Director of the Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration. He has over 500 publications in refereed journals, is a senior psychogeriatrician and is Head of the Memory Clinic at Prince of Wales Hospital. He was previously President of the International Psychogeriatric Association, Chairman of Alzheimer's Disease International, and President of Alzheimer's Australia NSW and Australia. He is an officer of the Order of Australia and a Ryman Prize winner.

Keynote speakers (cont.)



Associate Prof Stephen Macfarlane

Head of Clinical Services, The Dementia Centre, HammondCare

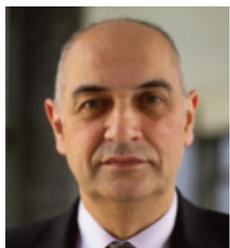
Professor Macfarlane focuses on patient diagnosis and initiation of management, collaborating with General Practitioners to transfer care to GPs. He is Head of Clinical Services at The Dementia Centre, HammondCare, Melbourne. He coordinates a specialist clinical support team while applying his 20 years of experience running Phase II-III Alzheimer's disease clinical trials as a Principal Investigator (local, national, and global) to conduct clinical trials in Alzheimer's disease. As an Associate Professor of Aged Psychiatry at Monash University since 2008, he has remained actively involved in student teaching and other forms of medical education.



Prof Brian Draper AM

Conjoint Professor, School of Psychiatry, University New South Wales

Brian Draper is an old age psychiatrist and Conjoint Professor, Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of NSW, Sydney. He is Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Older Persons' Mental Health Service, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, and member Medical and Scientific Advisory Panel, Alzheimer's Disease International. He is a former Board Member of the International Psychogeriatric Association, Chair of the RANZCP Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age, and Scientific Advisor to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles and chapters on topics including service delivery, dementia, suicidal behaviour, depression, professional development, and carer stress, and the books 'Dealing with Dementia', 'Understanding Alzheimer's and Other Dementias', and 'Dementia and Old Age Mental Health: A History of Service Delivery in Australia'. He was awarded the RANZCP College Medal of Honour.



Prof Joseph Ibrahim

Professor at Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, La Trobe University.

Joseph is a practising senior consultant specialist in geriatric medicine with over 30 years of experience. Joseph was a founding member of the clinical team assisting the State Coroner's Office in the 2000s, investigating the system failures associated with health and aged care deaths, respectively. Joseph's ongoing research investigates approaches to reducing harm to older persons and improving their quality of life. Joseph has also been called as an expert witness for criminal cases into elder abuse and coroners' cases and provided evidence to the Australian Law Reform Commission into Elder Abuse, Carnell and Paterson Report, the Commonwealth Senate Inquiry for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, the House of Representatives Inquiry and the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Professor Ibrahim was the lead author of the first comprehensive national study of injury-related deaths among nursing home residents in the world and was the inaugural and current editor of the Residential Aged Care Communiqué.

How to register for the National Mental Health Webinar Series

Save the 2024 webinar dates in your calendar and register for the March 6 webinar here.

<https://rb.gy/9kt8y7>

Need further information?

Contact Prof Joseph Ibrahim via email J.Ibrahim@latrobe.edu.au

