

# ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

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**Concurrent Stream:** Ill Rural health journeys

**Keywords:** Aged Health

**Abstract Title:** Geriatrician in the Practice Model of Dementia Care

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**Background:** The Shoalhaven has an aging population with a high prevalence of dementia and insufficient specialists to provide a timely service to this group of patients. General Practitioners reported that they had limited experience in managing patients living with dementia.

**Approach:** The Geriatrician in the Practice (GIP) model of care was developed to provide person centred, integrated care for people with dementia. It aims to improve the skills in primary care for the diagnosis and management of dementia, provide patients with timely assessment for dementia in a familiar location and build improved relationships between the primary health and hospital sectors. Practices are invited to enrol in the GIP Program. A dementia clinical nurse consultant and geriatrician attend the general practice and run a joint comprehensive geriatric consultation with the general practitioner and practice nurse. Training is provided to the practice nurses on cognitive assessments and to the General Practitioners on dementia diagnosis and management.

**Outcomes / Results:** The level of patient satisfaction has been very high and the program has identified groups of patients who were not attending hospital clinics. The practice nurses and General Practitioners report improved confidence in the management of people living with dementia and the number of people requiring subsequent review by a geriatrician has reduced. The ability of the General Practice to prioritise patients seen at the clinics has led to a more timely assessment of patients in need.

**Take Home Message** The model of specialists and general practitioners providing joint consultations in primary care settings for patients with dementia has a high degree of patient satisfaction and can lead to knowledge transfer from hospital based clinics into primary care. It is suitable for extension into other chronic care conditions.