

THE UNIVERSITY OF Exploring the experiences of Australian optometrists providing **MELBOURNE** eyecare for people living with dementia



with generous support from Ms Susan Bannatyne

			NICAL SERVICES • RESEARCH • EDUCATION AN ACO DIVISION
		Emerging Themes	
Why do this research?	Reactive Approach	No one-size-fits-all approach	Adaptation
• Sight loss is more common amongst people with dementia; two thirds of sight loss causes could be treated to improve eyesight.	"I've just got to manage each patient with what their concerns are [] I change my approach with every patient."	Adaptations required vary depending on dementia severity	"We need to kind of find a midway point between what we want and what the patient can achieve"
<ul> <li>Many causes of sight loss are detected during a routine eye test, and earlier detection increases chances of preserving sight.</li> <li>This study aims to interview 20 Australian</li> </ul>	Optometrists need to rapidly integrate information obtained during the appointment to decide how best to accommodate a person's	Limited information increases need for reactive approach	Optometrists adapt their testing approach, management and communication in various ways to accommodate dementia, but would like
optometrists and explore their views and experiences of delivering routine eye tests and eyecare for people living with dementia.	dementia during their testing.	Information helps with knowing what adaptations are needed	more clinical guidelines/CPD to support this. Adaptation provides reliable
	things helps to fill information gaps	"The more information I have, the easier it is	test results to aid decision- making
	Uncertainty engenders a more reactive approach to	So, if I've got a formal diagnosis, [] it's so much easier than if I'm winging it" Optometrists often don't know a patient has	may mean examination takes longer to complete
	Limited or inaccurate info means optometrist unsure what to expect	dementia before the appointment begins. Carers have an important role in providing information to aid clinical decision-making. Learn by doing and build knowledge base	or multiple visits required More time/visits allows enough information to be gathered to aid decision-making
Take-home messages	uncertainty 🎽 🤆	Experience	Time
• Optometrists want to provide high quality eyecare to people living with dementia, but need more time to do so effectively.	So, I guess it's very hard to plan out what their	"I think any optometrist who has dealt with dementia will have experienced certain situations like that."	"I definitely will try to get longer appointment times for them so I don't have to feel rushed." Many optometrists feel people with dementia
<ul> <li>Carers have an important support role during eye tests as providers of information to aid clinical decision-making, and to receive information or eyecare advice.</li> <li>Optometrists wish for more resources to support their work with people living with dementia, such as clinical guidelines or CPD.</li> </ul>	Optometrists can find clinical decision-making processes more challenging for people with dementia, but wish to deliver high quality care.	Seeing people with dementia regularly builds knowledge and confidence.	benefit from longer appointments or multiple, shorter visits to accommodate fatigue, adaptations to testing or the need for patience.
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rging themes based on preliminary analysis of 11 interviews		@MPOrthoptics	Dementia Australia Research Foundat

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