

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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New research projects aimed at improving the life of adults with dementia

Research into dementia has received a boost, with the University of Tasmania's Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre securing close to \$150,000 in Dementia Collaborative Research Centres' (DCRC) national grants.

The first grant of \$99,752 will fund research into the reduction of aspiration pneumonia in adults with dementia in residential care, through sustained and effective oral care.

The 12-month project will start this June and be based in two Tasmanian residential care facilities.

The second grant of close to \$42,000 will be used by the Wicking Centre to investigate the provision of an online risk assessment of Alzheimer's disease.

The project will look at the Australian National University's Alzheimer's disease risk index (ANU-ADRI), and whether the combination of the index and a series of memory tasks will provide a practical and easily accessible online risk assessment.

It is estimated that around 400,000 Australians will be living with dementia by 2020, and around 900,000 by 2050.

The Wicking Centre, which sits within the University's Faculty of Health, is a leader in transformative dementia research and has major research programs on the care, cause and prevention of dementia.

Wicking Centre Co-Director Professor Andrew Robinson said: "These latest grants highlight ongoing success in The Wicking Centre's innovative dementia research programs that span cause, care and prevention.

"We are very pleased because the funding will allow us to further develop our research in ways that will both inform our Bachelor of Dementia Care and our

capacity to develop novel solutions to support people with dementia, along with their families.”

The Wicking Centre grants were two of 26 DCRC grants awarded across a spectrum of areas, including prevention and assessment, treatment, and care of people living with dementia.

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