Preventing Dementia MOOC expands to China

The University of Tasmania’s reputation for international dementia education continues to grow with the scheduled launch of the Preventing Dementia Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in China in May.

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre’s Preventing Dementia MOOC has been translated into Chinese for the first time, to make it more accessible to the international community.

The expansion of the MOOC is in response to the increasing number of older people and escalating cases of dementia in China.

Wicking Centre co-director James Vickers said formal aged-care provisions for dementia in China were having difficulty in keeping up with increasing demand.

“As such there is substantial interest in China about lifestyle factors that may reduce the risk of dementia into older age,” he said.

“This latest initiative is possible through a new partnership with Care Visions China, which is based in Beijing and has a substantial social media reach around aged care and dementia, which will assist us with establish higher rates of participation and dementia education in China.”

Introduced last year, the five-week MOOC has been popular locally and in English-speaking countries, including Canada, the UK and Ireland, capturing the interest of more than 11,000 participants worldwide.

The Preventing Dementia MOOC follows on from the highly successful Understanding Dementia MOOC launched by the Wicking Centre in 2013, which has attracted more than 90,000 participants worldwide.

The Preventing Dementia MOOC is now open for enrolments.

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre is part of the University of Tasmania’s Faculty of Health.
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