



Helping Hand Dementia Scholarship: *the first two years*

Since launching in 2020, more than **50 staff** have undertaken a scholarship opportunity and shared their knowledge with colleagues across our organisation.

- Since 2020, more than **30 Scholarship recipients** have been involved in the Meaningful Engagement Mentoring Program, an immersive four-month course delivered through Dementia Australia's Centre for Dementia Learning.
- Through the Scholarship, **five staff** have started a Diploma of Dementia Care.
- Other Scholarship recipients have undertaken further dementia education and training online.



Your donation in action

Thanks to more than **\$35,000** in donations, we can offer these learning opportunities that are creating positive change, through greater understanding of living with dementia.



Why the Scholarship matters

In 2022, there are an estimated **487,500 Australians living with dementia**. Approximately 70% of people living with dementia live in the community and approximately 61.8% of people living in residential care have moderate to severe cognitive impairment.

(Source www.dementia.org.au)





Parafield Gardens Case Study:

creating worlds through the Dementia Scholarship

The Dementia Scholarship has been transforming the lives of both staff and residents in the specialist Memory Support Unit at Parafield Gardens Residential Care Home.

Since 2020, eight members of the team have undertaken a scholarship opportunity, so that they could increase their understanding of dementia and make a difference to people living at Parafield Gardens. Their combined knowledge and expertise have contributed to a collaborative initiative involving Care Workers, the Lifestyle team and the Home's Clinical Nurse.

The installation of life-scale wallpaper in the Memory Support Unit, depicting streetscapes and shopfronts have created a unique main street experience. Day-to-day items including models of typewriters and telephones that would be familiar to residents have also been introduced. These changes have created meaningful moments and engaging experiences for residents, visitors and staff. Daily activities, like peeling fruit, mixing food, and making cups of tea together, have also been trialled with positive effects. The knowledge and learnings gained through the Scholarship have played a pivotal role in how these changes in the Memory Support Unit were developed, introduced, and implemented.



Jennifer Walker,
Parafield Garden's Lifestyle
Coordinator says:

**'We are creating
small moments to achieve
something meaningful and
purposeful every day.'**



Helping Hand
new aged care

www.helpinghand.org.au/dementia-scholarship