

ORGANISATION CASE STUDY

A case study shared by clinicians from a Victorian community rehabilitation service who participated in the “Introduction to dementia rehabilitation” course as part of “The right to rehabilitation for people with dementia” project.

Working in partnership to improve access to dementia rehabilitation

Who we are?	We are community rehabilitation clinicians – including speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work, and physiotherapy – who are passionate about improving access to rehabilitation for people living with dementia.
What is the challenge?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a gap in access to individualised, timely rehabilitation for people with dementia, especially around the time of diagnosis.• People need support that helps them in adjusting to their diagnosis and living with dementia.
What did we do?	<p>We completed the self-paced “Introduction to Dementia Rehabilitation” online course, and joined the community of practice. During the Advocacy and Action module, we met together to discuss our goals for action.</p> <p>We formed a working group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• explore local gaps in post-diagnosis support for people diagnosed with dementia• review referral guidelines, inclusion and exclusion criteria, so that people with dementia are not unfairly excluded from services• collaborate with other programs – such as the Cognitive, Dementia and Memory Service
What has been the impact?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are developing an interdisciplinary dementia rehabilitation service• We have built stronger links with other services• We are receiving more referrals for rehabilitation for people living with dementia
What helped?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being part of an interdisciplinary team who respect and value each other’s roles• Completing the “Introduction to Dementia Rehabilitation” online course at the same time• The human rights focus of the online course helped motivate us to act
What more is needed?	While we are making change at a local level, more support is needed at a system level to improve access to dementia rehabilitation for everyone

