

Referral and Intake Guidelines
Western Health Cognitive, Dementia and Memory Service (CDAMS)

Catchment LGA's:	Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton and Wyndham
Sources of Referral	<p>Referrals accepted from all sources.</p> <p>A GP referral is not required, but as the service needs to liaise closely with the treating GP we recommend that the referrer notify and discuss the referral with the GP.</p>
General Eligibility (See next page for General Exclusions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Must require multidisciplinary assessment ◆ Anyone over the age of 50 with Early symptoms of memory loss/cognitive impairment, who does not have a diagnosis. <i>(early symptoms include: slowed thinking, increased forgetfulness of recent events, may have difficulty with complex higher level tasks eg: driving, But person continues to manage personal care tasks independently, doesn't wander, or get lost in own home etc.)</i> ◆ <u>Symptoms must have been present for a minimum of 6 months.</u> ◆ Persons under the age of 50 who do not fit the general exclusion criteria listed on the next page and who have symptoms of early memory impairment or a family history of dementia. ◆ Early diagnosis made elsewhere but seeking Second Opinion ◆ Must be physically able to attend hospital based appointment. ◆ Client must agree to attend or can be coaxed by family/carer ◆ Persons with long standing ABI / Intellectual impairment are not eligible unless there has been an un-related deterioration in cognitive functioning which might indicate a neurodegenerative process.
Investigations Required	<p>Radiology: CT brain Pathology: FBE / ESR / Urea /Creatinine / electrolytes / Vitamin B12, Liver function Tests / Folate / Thyroid Function Tests / Random Blood Glucose / Calcium / Cholesterol / Syphilis serology/ MSU and ECG.</p>
Initial Assessment	An initial assessment is completed by CDAMS Allied Health or nursing staff approximately 8 weeks from receipt of referral. The wait for medical / neuropsychology assessment following initial assessment is approximately 12 weeks. This may vary depending on the waiting list
For General Enquiries or To Make a Referral	<p>Please contact: CDAMS staff Telephone: (03) 8345 7865 Fax: (03) 8345 6394</p>
Location and Postal Address	<p>CDAMS Footscray Hospital – 2 West 160 Gordon Street Footscray Vic 3011</p>

General Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recent onset of cognitive decline (last few days/weeks). This requires urgent assessment (need to consider delirium, stroke, brain trauma) – refer to GP, Emergency Dept. ◆ Persons with Complex Psychiatric conditions (e.g Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder) who may also have cognitive changes – refer to APATT if aged 65+ or to Neuropsychiatry Dept RMH if under 65. ◆ Persons with longstanding ABI / Intellectual impairment (eg. Due to stroke, head injury, ID etc) with No related change/decline in cognition. ◆ Persons under the age of 50 who are complaining of memory problems in the context of stress, anxiety, depression or where other psychiatric conditions may be the cause. Refer firstly to psychiatrist or private physician to exclude these factors as cause of memory and thinking problems. CDAMS will accept the referral once these factors have been excluded. ◆ Current Excessive/Heavy Alcohol Useage. Referral will be accepted if client has been alcohol free for 3-4 months. ◆ Diagnosis already confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eg: Dementia, Huntington’s, ABI, Stroke, Parkinson’s disease and under care of neurologist for these conditions. ○ But needs community supports / counselling. Refer to AAV, Carers Support Service, ACAS. ○ But has behavioural or psychological disturbance. Refer to APATT ◆ Neuropsychological or capacity assessment only – refer to private provider ◆ In Residential Care – Refer to ACAS ◆ Moderate to advanced symptoms of memory (e.g.: geographical disorientation within home or familiar environment, needs prompting or assistance with personal care, neglecting nutrition or significant safety risk. Refer to ACAS. ◆ Physically unable to attend hospital/clinic – refer to ACAS
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Other Contact Numbers

Western Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS)

Phone: 8345 7860

[Neuropsychiatry Dept, RMH](#)

[Phone: 9342 8750](#)

Aged Psychiatry Assessment & Treatment Team

Phone: 1300 874 243

[Adult Mental Health Services \(Under 65 yrs of age\)](#)

[Phone: 1300 874 243](#)

ABI Service, Western Region

Phone: 9449 6931

[Intellectual Disability Service - Intake](#)

[Phone: 9412 2741](#)

[\(Includes the Behaviour Intervention Support Team for persons with both an Intellectual and Psychiatric disability\)](#)