

# Can this new observation framework support residential care staff to “reflect-on-action”

## An exploratory study

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inspiring achievement

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# Aim of the study

To explore the potential application  
of PIECE-dem by practitioners in  
the Australian context

# PIECE-dem

Is an acronym for :

- **P**erson
- **I**nteraction
- **E**nvironment
- **C**are **E**xperience in
- **D**ementia

# Framework for structuring observations to capture participants efforts at social interactions

The framework includes recordings on:

- If the person appears **engaged with or disengaged** from with the world around them;
- If an **interaction** occurs;
- Qualitative notes describing the person's apparent **experience** of the world around them,
- Qualitative notes describing the **immediate environment** within which the resident is spending their time

# Needs of a practice tool

To be functional as a practice tool it would need to be:

- Easy to implement
- Time efficient in application
- Ability to train a body of staff in its use
- Simple to interpret results
- And ultimately to inform care practice

# Target participants

As well as dementia, participants may have characteristics such as:

- Are least able to verbally communicate
- May be withdrawn
- May be at end of life
- Are viewed to have high levels of responsive behaviour
- May be very mobile or agitated
- Have significant sight and/or hearing loss

# Methodology

Staff members , identified by their peers as clinical leaders, attended training on person centred care as well as training on how to use the PIECE-dem tool.

These staff members, who agreed to be mentors, will then be involved with ten observation sessions

Debriefing time after each observation, to reflect on what was observed, what trends and what the experience might have been for the participant.

Mentors will be asked to keep a reflective journal

# Preliminary findings

## Participant one:

- Engaged with the environment 79%
- Interacting with object or person 12.5%
- Disengaged 8.5%

Revealed this person was more open and aware of activity within the unit than thought

## Participant two:

- Engaged with the environment 92%
- Interaction with object or person 8%
- Disengaged 0

Reflection suggested strategic positioning of chairs around the unit



# Can this new observation framework, support residential care staff to “reflect–on-action”?

Preliminary findings of this exploratory study would support this capacity, where the emphasis in the reflection session is on how the participant was experiencing the environment, and how staff can enhance engagement.

# Reference

**Brooker,D. La Fontaine, J. De Vries,K. Porter,T. Surr,C. (2010)** How can I tell what's going on here? The development of PIECE-dem: An observational framework focussing on the perspective of residents with advanced dementia living in care homes. Part of the PANICOA research program. University of Worcester, Association of Dementia Studies

NB

PIECE-dem and all adaptations is the intellectual property of University of Worcester, Association of Dementia Studies .