

# IS IT DEMENTIA?

FIRE SERVICES | FACILITATOR GUIDE QUESTIONS

## QUESTIONS

The Facilitator Guide questions have been developed to support the integration of this resource into existing training programs. The questions are designed to prompt discussions on the topic of dementia, build a greater awareness of the signs and symptoms and to explore related operational issues.

### **What indicators would make you consider whether dementia or cognition may be an issue?**

The Ventilation Scenario:

- Interaction with Helen
- Suspected cause of the fire
- Fridge with information about Helen's daughter
- Smoke alarm
- Other

Head-on Scenario

- Interaction with passenger
- No head injury (or other sign of physical injury)
- Orientation to space/time
- Confusion of what has occurred (passenger attempting to smoke/wandering into traffic)
- Other

### **Thinking of the key messages being explored in both scenarios and the actions of Helen and the vehicle's passenger, what can we learn from the following:**

- Communication between the central characters and firefighters
- Responses provided to questions
- Speed of conversation
- Body language
- Reaction to uniforms
- Gender and age
- Memory recall

### **What is your duty of care in regards to the interaction with paramedics/police in these scenarios?**

- Role and responsibilities of fire and emergency services personnel at an incident, where a member of the public involved, shows signs of dementia.
- Communication of shared knowledge between emergency response personnel about the person requiring assistance.
- Communication to the person prior to being 'handed over' to assist their understanding of who they are going with and why?
- Aside from immediate response personnel, who else might be contacted or involved (ie family members/carers - refer to note on fridge in ventilation scenario).
- Identify your organisation's policies and procedures for supporting people with dementia at an incident and what action you can take.

Alzheimer's Australia can provide additional training support to facilitate this training resource – please contact the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500.

For further support visit our website [www.fightdementia.org.au](http://www.fightdementia.org.au)