

Annual Report 2025



UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

WICKING 

Dementia Research and Education Centre



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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Palawa people of Lutruwita (Tasmania) and the Gadigal people of Sydney, the traditional owners, and custodians of the land upon which we live and work. We pay respects to Elders past and present as the knowledge holders and sharers. We honour their strong culture and knowledge as vital to the self-determination, wellbeing, and strength of the community. We stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language, and history.

◀ Top: Wicking Dementia Centre, August 2025 Graduates.

Middle: Nature Hub, New Norfolk Tasmania.

Bottom: *Front Row:* Distinguished Professor James Vickers and Dr Mohammad Shoaib Hamrah. *Back Row:* Dr James Brady, Sladana Pavkovic, Getachew Yitbarek and Kaylee Rudd.



▲ Wicking Centre Staff and Students.

Wicking Dementia Centre – Our Mission

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre at the University of Tasmania is a global leader in dementia research, education, and community impact.

Since 2008, the Centre has been committed to improving the lives of people living with dementia through innovative research, accessible learning opportunities, active partnerships and engagement with communities.

Our mission is driven by a commitment to better understand the diseases that cause dementia—such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and other neurodegenerative conditions. Our researchers work to unravel the biological mechanisms behind these illnesses, paving the way for new strategies to slow, prevent, and ultimately transform their progression.

Education is central to our work. Through innovative programs and our internationally recognised MOOCs we equip healthcare professionals, carers, and the broader public with the knowledge they need. These free online courses continue to reach tens of thousands of learners worldwide.

Our research-based community initiatives, including the ISLAND Project, empower individuals and communities to reduce dementia risk and build resilience. This ensures our work remains scientifically rigorous while staying grounded in real-world impact.

Supporting carers is another core focus. Programs such as the Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring (DREAM) Project and EQUIP Aged Care Packages strengthen the skills and confidence of those providing care, improving wellbeing for both carers and the people they support.

At its core, the Wicking Dementia Centre is about people—helping individuals live well with dementia, supporting carers, and fostering compassionate, informed communities. Thanks to the vision of our founders and the dedication of our staff, students, and partners, the Centre continues to lead the way in dementia research and education worldwide.



In 2025, there are an estimated 433,300 Australians living with dementia, which has become the leading cause of death in the country.

Source: *Dementia Australia (2025)*

Message from Acting Director Professor Anna King



It is with a sense of pride, humility and perhaps a little apprehension that on behalf of the Wicking Centre team, I write the Directors message for the 2025 Annual Report; a year that highlights new beginnings, refreshed offerings, and the celebration of a remarkable leadership legacy.

2025 has been a year of growth and renewal. We expanded our suite of world-leading Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), launching new educational programs developed in partnership with expert collaborators. Our Parkinson's disease MOOC, delivered jointly with the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, and our new Motor Neurone Disease (MND) MOOC represent significant steps in broadening our reach, strengthening community understanding of complex neurological conditions and developing new networks. Supported by a fantastic community of people willing to give their time, stories and expertise, these initiatives enable us to continue our commitment to making high-quality, evidence-based education accessible to people around the world.

At the same time, our foundational MOOCs, Understanding Dementia and Preventing Dementia, underwent comprehensive updates to ensure they reflect the latest scientific insights, contemporary teaching practices, and the evolving needs of our global community of learners. These refreshed offerings reaffirm our dedication to excellence and innovation in dementia education.

This year also marked a significant leadership transition for the Centre. We celebrate the outstanding contributions of our retiring Director, Emeritus Distinguished Professor James Vickers, whose vision, expertise and unwavering commitment have shaped the Wicking Dementia Centre into a nationally and internationally recognised leader in dementia education and research.

His legacy is deeply embedded in our programs, our partnerships, our impact on communities worldwide as well as our people who will drive the future mission of the Centre. I feel very fortunate that James is in close contact and continues to provide mentorship to work with the Wicking Centre on specific research in an adjunct role.

As we honour James's extraordinary contributions, we also look forward to the future. I am excited to step into the role of Acting Director, and I do so with great respect for the foundations laid before me and with enthusiasm for what lies ahead. I have been with the Wicking Centre since its inception in 2008 starting out as one of the first postdoctoral fellows undertaking work in the neuropathology of neurodegenerative disease. The Centre has helped shape my understanding of the complexities of dementia and the critical need for better knowledge and to improve outcomes for those with a living experience of dementia and related conditions. At the Centre I am involved in multiple research projects, have had the benefit and privilege of contributing to our education programs and have been in the role of Associate Director Research since 2017.

Together with our dedicated staff, partners and supporters, our team remains focused on expanding our educational impact, advancing research, and strengthening our contribution to improving the lives of people living with dementia, their families and carers.

We thank our learners, collaborators and stakeholders for their continued support throughout 2025. We are excited for the opportunities ahead and for continuing our mission to transform understanding, care and outcomes in dementia.

Professor Anna King
Acting Director, Wicking Dementia Centre

Wicking Dementia Centre Key Achievements in 2025



FEBRUARY 05

Parkinson's
MOOC Launch



MARCH 13

2025 Innovations
in Dementia
Care Masterclass



MARCH 21

MND MOOC
Launch



SEPTEMBER 22

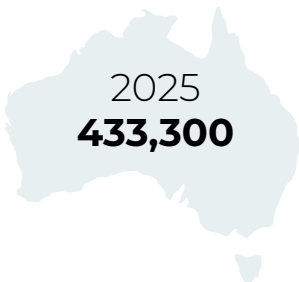
Updated
Understanding
Dementia
Launch



TOP 5

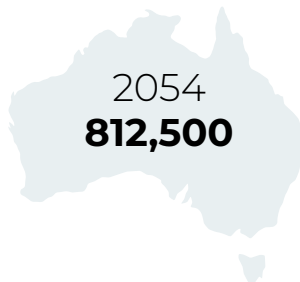
UD MOOC – Class
Central – Top 5
Health & Medicine
MOOCs worldwide

2025 Dementia Statistics



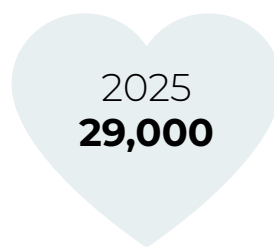
*Prevalence

In 2025, there are an estimated 433,300 Australians living with dementia, which has become the leading cause of death in the country.



*Future Projection

By 2054 there will be 812,500 people in Australia living with dementia.



*Care Impact

In 2025, there are 29,000 Australians living with younger onset dementia and 1.7 million people involved in their care.



*Community

Approximately 2 in 3 people with dementia live in the community, while 54% of permanent residents in aged care are living with dementia.



10 million

***New Cases:** Worldwide there are nearly 10 million new cases of dementia diagnosed every year, which equals one new case every 3 seconds.

*Source: Dementia Australia

*Source: Alzheimer's Association

OUR GRANT FUNDING 2025

Total current project Grant Funding for 2025	\$ 33,937,555
Total new or announced funding in 2025	\$ 5,939,005

OUR EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Undergraduate study	Graduates to date	Graduated in 2025
Bachelor of Dementia Care (M3S)	434	26
Associate Degree in Dementia Care (M2D)	333	15
Diploma of Dementia Care (M1D)	2,238	287
Diploma of Ageing Studies and Services (M1A)	32	9
Undergraduate Certificate in Aged Care Services (50A)	2	-
Undergraduate Certificate in Dementia Care (50F)	86	-
Total number of graduates	3,125	337

Postgraduate study	Graduates to date	Graduated in 2025
Master of Dementia (M7X)	70	16
Graduate Diploma of Dementia (M6X)	25	6
Graduate Certificate in Dementia (M5X)	113	24
Total number of graduates	208	46

MOOCs	Enrolments to end 2025	Total enrolled in 2025	Australian enrolments in 2025	International enrolments in 2025	Completion Rates in 2025 %
Understanding Dementia	455,012	33,806	17,694	16,112	19.27
Preventing Dementia	264,368	12,451	6,327	6,124	28.06
Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury	89,075	10,391	5,470	4,921	22.87
Parkinson's MOOC	27,101	27,101	16,831	10,270	35.14
MND MOOC	12,877	12,877	7,219	5,658	27.73
Totals	848,433	96,626	53,547	43,079	26.61

We have received enrolments from 227* countries to date including 186 UN member states.

* Countries as included on the MOOC enrolment form as listed in the ISO 3166-1 Standard of 249 interest.

Our Education – MOOCs to Masters

Start small, think big: transforming dementia care through lifelong learning.

The Wicking Dementia Centre offers clear and supportive education pathways. From free online learning through MOOCs (massive open online courses) to formal postgraduate qualifications, including a Master of Dementia Care. The Wicking Dementia Centre is dedicated to growing global understanding of dementia and building a skilled workforce to drive positive change in ageing and dementia care.

Our FREE Courses

Through our free online courses, we empower learners globally with practical knowledge—exploring how dementia affects the brain, the behaviors and needs that result, and strategies for providing compassionate, effective care.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Improving dementia literacy is at the heart of the Wicking Dementia Centre. Through our free, globally accessible MOOCs, we are breaking down barriers to knowledge and empowering people everywhere to better understand dementia and related conditions. By expanding the reach of our courses and evaluating their impact, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

In 2025 we launched two new MOOCs and updated and refreshed the Understanding Dementia MOOC.

NEW PARKINSON'S DISEASE MOOC

Increase understanding and awareness, reduce stigma and improve attitudes towards research and holistic care of Parkinson's. It covers symptoms, risk factors, treatments, allied health therapies, and strategies for living well with Parkinson's. Accessible to people with Parkinson's, their families, carers, health professionals, and the wider community, the MOOC empowers learners with practical knowledge and connects them to a global network of support.

NEW MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE (MND) MOOC

Building knowledge, fostering understanding. Explores Motor Neurone Disease, a progressive neurological condition that affects movement, speech, and breathing. It provides learners with insights into the causes, symptoms, and care strategies, while highlighting the latest research and approaches to support those living with MND.

UPDATED UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA (UD) MOOC

Anyone can develop dementia—everyone can help.

This flagship course explores the diseases that cause dementia, their effects on those living with the condition, and the treatments and care practices that enhance quality of life. It equips learners with practical insights to support people with dementia, their families, and caregivers.

PREVENTING DEMENTIA (PD) MOOC

It's never too early—or too late—to reduce your risk.

This course delivers university-quality education on the latest research into dementia risk and protective factors. Learners discover evidence-based strategies to lower their risk while connecting with a global community of participants—all without exams or assignments.

UNDERSTANDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) MOOC

Understand the injury, reduce the risk. This course raises awareness of traumatic brain injury across the lifespan, from mild concussions to severe injuries. It provides knowledge on causes, consequences, and management strategies, helping learners contribute to better rehabilitation outcomes and improved quality of life for those affected.



An estimated 1.7 million people in Australia are involved in the care of someone living with dementia.

Source: National Dementia Action Plan; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2024) 2023 Aged Care Provider Workforce Survey: Summary report, AIHW, Australian Government.



Equip Aged Care Learning – free aged care learning modules

Equip Aged Care Learning is designed for everyone involved in aged care—whether new or experienced, including care workers, support staff, managers, volunteers and family members.

With funding from the Australian Government, Equip was launched in 2022. With online educational modules covering 14 topics, the program has already **seen over 49,400 enrolments to date**. Each module is complemented by a downloaded infographic, additional resources to extend learning and completion certificates. Equip was extended in October 2024 which involves the existing suite complemented with an additional five new modules, as well as a full refresh of existing modules, and a new look web portal with additional functionality.

The first of the new modules were released in late 2025 and included The Aged Care Act (2024) and Support at Home, covering the key changes from the aged care reforms. Nutrition and Dining and Eye Health are currently under development for release in 2026.



DREAM – free education modules and in-person coaching for the aged care workforce

DREAM (Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring) launched in July 2024 and has already attracted more than 10,400 enrolments to the online portal and a further 6,800 completing an in-person coaching session. This national initiative strengthens the capability of aged care providers to deliver high quality respite care for people living with dementia, including smooth transitions into and out of respite services. DREAM was recently extended by two years.

The program offers:

Educational Modules: Tailored online learning with videos, infographics, and practical resources.

Network: A dedicated online space for aged care workers to connect, collaborate, and share best practice. A podcast, Voices in DREAM, was added to the Network in 2025 with episodes released weekly.

Dementia Support Coaches: In-person or virtual coaching available across Australia which helps aged care workers translate knowledge into practice, helping embed learning into everyday care.

Funded by the Australian Government and delivered in partnership with Dementia Support Australia (DSA), DREAM supports those who are supporting people living with dementia.

Members of the DREAM and Equip teams attended conferences around the country, promoting the programs to the aged care workforce, answering questions and gathering feedback on workforce education needs.



◀ Top: Behind the scenes Equip MAY 25.

Middle: DREAM Team at COTA with Val Fell, Dementia Australia advocate.

Bottom: Associate Professor Alison Canty UTAS Teaching Excellence Award Winner 2025.

University Award Courses

Leading Education for a Changing Ageing and Dementia Landscape

The Wicking Dementia Centre is at the forefront of dementia research and education, with a mission to transform global understanding of dementia. Our online university award courses are grounded in the latest research and designed for learners at any career stage.

With more than 55 million people worldwide living with dementia—and numbers projected to reach 78 million by 2030 and 139 million by 2050—the need for a skilled, knowledgeable aged care workforce has never been more urgent.

Diploma of Dementia Care

As dementia rates rise, specialised knowledge is essential for personal carers, aged care workers, and anyone supporting people living with dementia. This diploma provides practical, research-informed learning delivered by expert clinicians and academics. Real-life case studies enrich the experience, equipping graduates with the skills to make a meaningful impact across health and community settings.

Bachelor of Dementia Care

Australia's only undergraduate degree dedicated entirely to dementia care. This program prepares learners to deliver high-quality, person-centred care across homes, communities, hospitals, and residential facilities. Graduates develop deep expertise to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their families.

Diploma of Ageing Studies and Services

This diploma offers a comprehensive understanding of ageing and the delivery of high-quality services for older adults. It is ideal for current professionals in aged care, community services, and related sectors, as well as those aspiring to enter this growing workforce. Graduates gain the knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of the aged care system and support older adults through changing needs.

Master of Dementia

The Master of Dementia provides an advanced, global perspective on the personal, societal, and systemic impacts of dementia. Designed for professionals seeking deeper expertise, the program explores dementia from multiple viewpoints—individuals, families, communities, healthcare systems, and governments. Students examine neurobiology, pathology, biomarkers, and emerging therapeutic approaches to develop a sophisticated understanding of dementia.

▼ Dr Ignacio Martinez Escobedo presenting his PhD to Wicking Dementia Centre staff.





▲ Left: Distinguished Professor James Vickers – promoting the ISLAND Project and MOOCs at the Deloraine Fair.
Right: Distinguished Professor James Vickers – Innovations in Dementia Master Class.

Research and Grants 2025

ISLAND Project Summary

As a core component of the Wicking Dementia Centre's strategy, the Island Study Linking Ageing and Neurodegenerative Disease (ISLAND) is now into its sixth year.

ISLAND is a 10-year prospective cohort study investigating the long-term effects of improving modifiable dementia risk behaviours for brain health. Each year, ISLAND participants report their Dementia Risk Profile (DRP) in the annual surveys, receiving personalised feedback of their risk level (low, medium, high) across evidence-based modifiable risk factors for dementia. Every second year willing participants also donate a sample of their blood and participate in cognitive testing.

New 2025 analysis has shown a 30% improvement in the Dementia Risk Profile of our cohort over the first five years of the study (Figure 1). There have been notable improvements across the domains of cognitive activity, physical activity, and alcohol consumption (Figure 2).

The ISLAND Clinic is a Tasmanian memory assessment and research service that integrates bulk-billed diagnostic care with cutting-edge cognitive research to provide fast, coordinated support for people experiencing memory concerns. Delivered in partnership with the Tasmanian Health Service, I-MED Radiology, Dementia Australia, and the Australian Dementia Network (ADNeT), the clinic offers same-day, multidisciplinary assessment and care planning in one location, followed by a comprehensive discharge report and connection to local supports and research opportunities.

To date, the clinic has received **1,221 referrals** and delivered **605 diagnoses**, including dementia, mild cognitive impairment and related conditions, while achieving a referral-to-diagnosis timeframe that is significantly faster than the national benchmark, helping Tasmanian patients and families access answers and evidence-based care sooner.

This year, ISLAND has commenced a new sub-study called INSIGHT: An interactive online dashboard to communicate biological, genetic and digital markers of dementia risk. This was co-developed to discover whether providing this personalised dementia risk information, alongside tailored lifestyle interventions, has the capacity to promote sustained engagement to positive modifiable risk factor reduction. The dashboard was co-designed with community, and the pilot of the project took place over the last quarter of 2025. Pilot results are now being assessed to guide a possible wider roll-out of this exciting venture.

FIGURE 1: CHANGE IN DEMENTIA RISK PROFILE OVER TIME

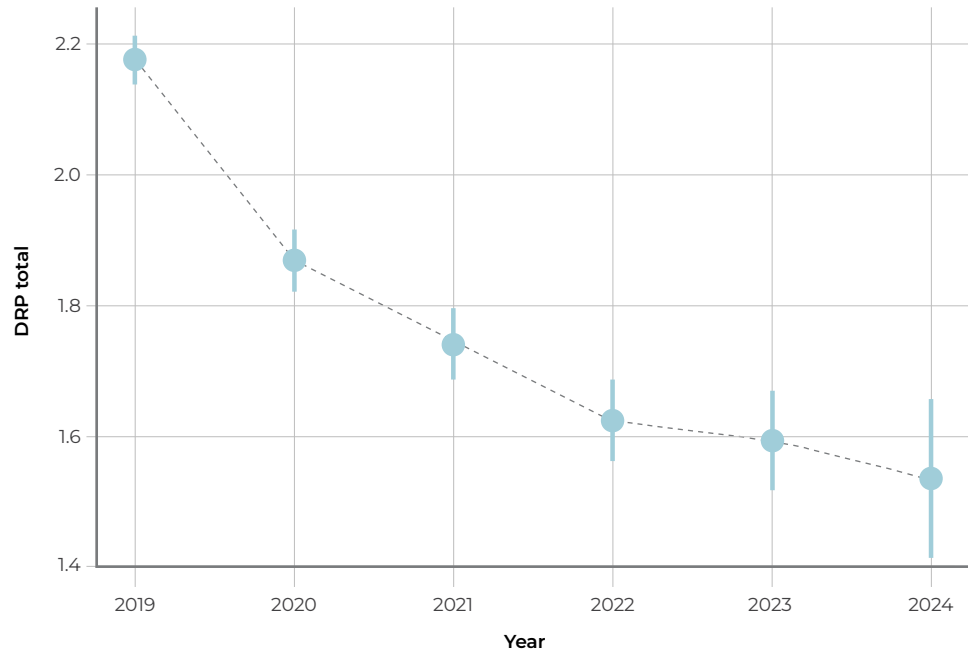
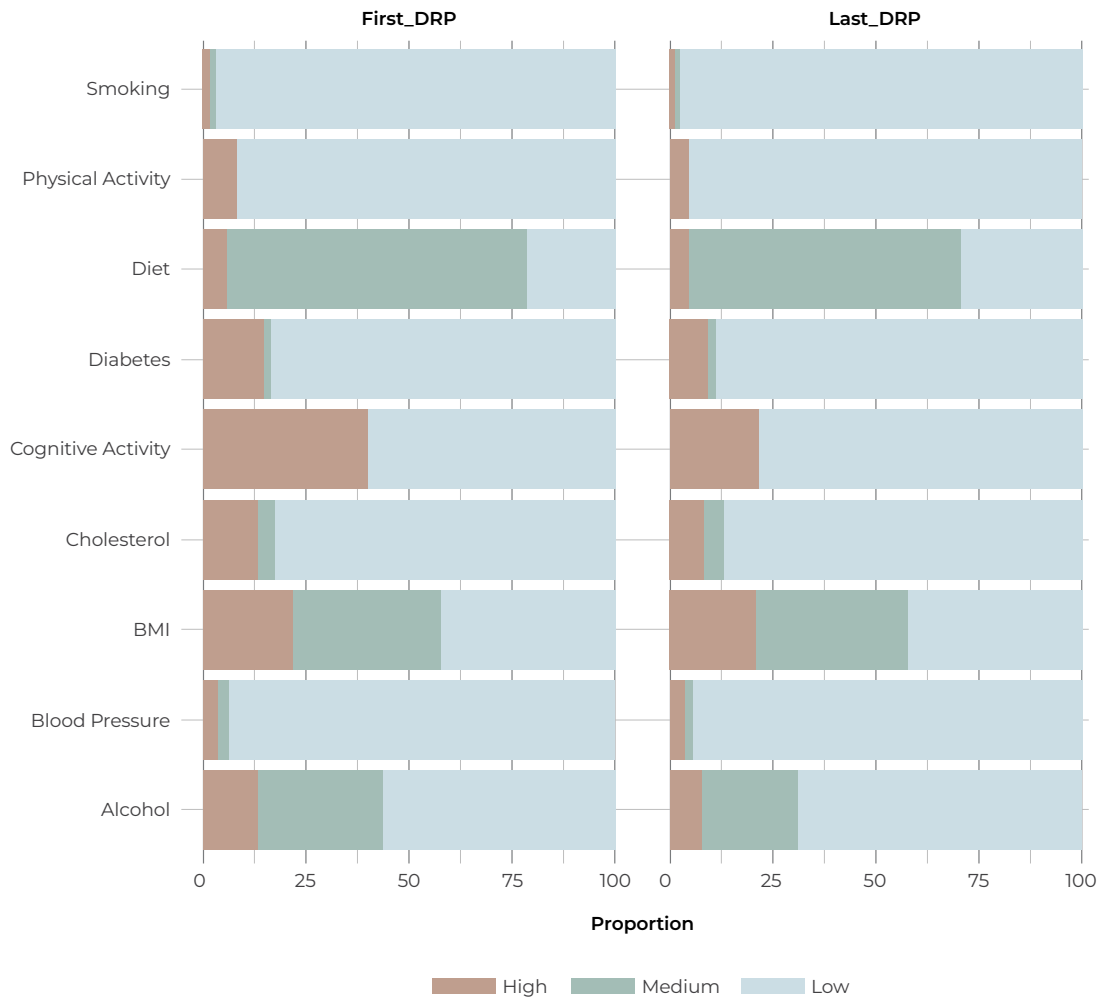
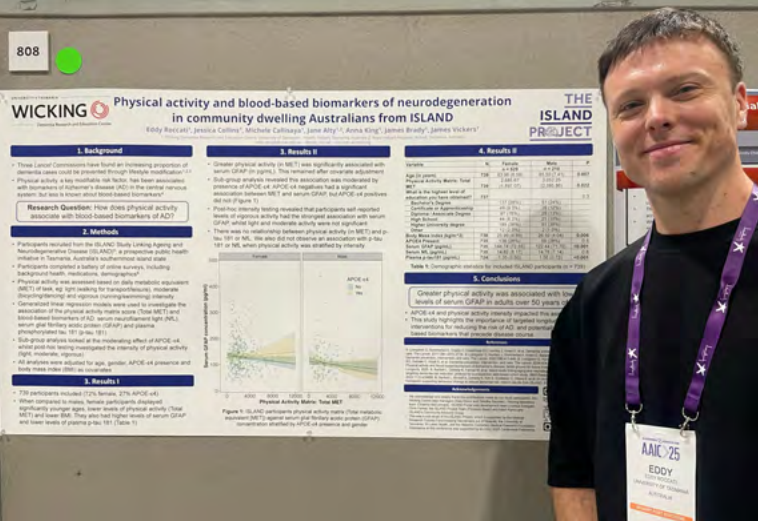


FIGURE 2: CHANGE FROM FIRST TO LAST DEMENTIA RISK PROFILE BY RISK FACTOR





Throughout 2025, the ISLAND Project has continued to strengthen community engagement and advance research aimed at reducing dementia risk across Tasmania. Other key achievements included:

- **Engagement:** Over 11,500 Tasmanians engaged with the ISLAND Project through monthly newsletters. Of these, 2,479 members completed the October survey, and 1,605 participants took part in CANTAB cognitive testing.
- **Consumer and community involvement:** ISLAND's Community Advisory Group met four times throughout the year to help guide the direction of research and engagement within the project.
- **INSIGHT pilot:** 150 participants received access to their personalised genetic, biological, and cognitive risk profiles through the pilot phase of the INSIGHT Project.
- **Blood sample collection:** A total of 1,052 blood samples were collected across statewide clinics to support ongoing biomarker research.
- **The Campus Study:** 132 ISLAND participants commenced or continued their University education through the Campus Study, contributing to research on cognitive health and lifelong learning.
- **Resilience Initiative:** The project collected 670 hair samples and 750 saliva samples to examine biological markers of resilience and stress.
- **Public outreach:** The team delivered 22 in-person engagement events, including presentations, festivals and expos across Tasmania, strengthening community awareness of dementia prevention.
- **Publications:** ISLAND published 16 peer-reviewed manuscripts in high-impact scientific journals. These papers covered a wide range of topics, from areas of prevention such as physical activity, social isolation and mindfulness, through to new screening tools and epidemiological insights, with presentations at national and international conferences.



ISLAND remains a collaborative endeavour between a multitude of inter-disciplinary researchers including neuroscientists, clinicians, epidemiologists, social scientists, statisticians, laboratory technicians, educational technologists, and Tasmanian participants. We have several ongoing large-scale sub-studies, including TAS Test, TapTalk, ISLAND Resilience, Campus and ISLAND Sleep, as well as smaller-scale initiatives in gait assessments, tongue strength and speech analysis.

- ◀ **Top:** Dr Eddy Roccati at ACCI Conference Canada.
- Middle:** Associate Professor Alison Canty and August 2025 Graduates and Alumni.
- Middle:** Distinguished Professor James Vickers and Wicking Dementia Centre staff and students.
- Bottom:** (L-R) Professor Tracey Dickson, Director-Menzies, Distinguished Professor James Vickers, Director-Wicking Dementia Centre, Emeritus Professor Andrew Robinson, Wicking Dementia Centre Co-Founder and Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor-UTAS.



Did you know that Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological disorder in the world? The number of people affected is expected to double about every 20 years, highlighting an urgent need for better research, education and support.

To help meet this challenge, the Tasmania Parkinson's Project (TPP) was established in 2024. In less than 2 years, almost 4,000 people have already signed up to be part of the project. This new, nationwide project is led by the University of Tasmania as a collaboration between the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre and the Menzies Institute for Medical Research. Its goal is simple but powerful: to improve the lives of people living with Parkinson's disease through cutting-edge research, practical education and deep community involvement.

The TPP is co-led by Professor Jane Alty, a neurologist at the Royal Hobart Hospital neurologist and researcher at the Wicking Centre, and Professor Michele Callisaya, a physiotherapist and researcher at the Menzies Institute. Together they bring more than 40 years of experience in treating neurological conditions. Under their leadership, the project blends high-quality science with real-world insight to deliver meaningful outcomes not only for Tasmanians but also for communities across Australia and globally. This impact was recognised in December 2025 when the University of Tasmania awarded the team the Vice Chancellors Community Engagement Award.

The TPP team have worked hard this year to advance research into early detection, care and quality; they have involved people living with Parkinson's, their families, and caregivers at every stage - from shaping research priorities to co-designing educational resources. Monthly free webinars throughout 2025 have drawn 200-400 attendees, making reliable easy-to-understand information available to everyone.

Location: Parkinson's MOOC Participants



▲ Professor Michele Callisaya and Professor Jane Alty at Parkinson's MOOC launch day.

A major milestone this year was the launch of the Parkinson's MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in February. Built *'with the community and for the community'*, more than 80 national and international experts contributed their time in-kind to the co-create the course alongside people living with Parkinson's, caregivers, allied health professionals, clinicians and researchers. Already the MOOC has attracted over 26,000 enrollments worldwide (see heat map), earned a 5/5-star rating on Class Central and a top 5 ranking among 12,000+ health MOOCs internationally. Its inclusive, evidence-based content spans topics from risk factors of Parkinson's and how medications work to how to the evidence that exercise may slow progression of symptoms.

The result is a truly global collaboration, while keeping strong local Tasmanian focus. A link to the explore the course can be found [here](https://mooc.utas.edu.au), so please take the opportunity to see for yourself why this course is so highly rated: [Parkinson's MOOC \(2025-10\) | The Wicking Dementia Centre \(mooc.utas.edu.au\)](https://mooc.utas.edu.au)

The research stemming from TPP is already making a difference in Tasmania and beyond. Focus areas include calculating prevalence, understanding progression, developing systems for optimal care, and researching genetic factors - ultimately generating insights that improve clinical practice.

Highlights this year include: establishing a comprehensive register of people living with Parkinson's across Tasmania; measuring subtle movement patterns at home with AI-powered TAS Test technology to better understand early changes in Parkinson's; exploring biological and genetic markers that could support earlier diagnosis; and introducing ParkinsonNET to improve access to allied health support across Tasmania and Western Victoria. The TPP team also collaborates with Parkinson's Tasmania support groups, hosting in-person talks and research opportunities in Northern Tasmania to ensure rural voices shape future studies.

The TPP aim as we move into 2026 is simple: improve access to trustworthy education and support, strengthen community resilience through inclusive participation, and position Tasmania as a leader in Parkinson's research and outreach. The more people who take part in this project, the greater our collective impact on care and understanding of Parkinson's in Australia. People with and without Parkinson's are invited to get involved so please consider joining us via this website: [Tasmania Parkinson's Project | UTAS \(parkinsons.utas.edu.au\)](https://parkinsons.utas.edu.au)

Wicking Dementia Centre – Selection of 2025 Publications

Title: Feasibility of computerised motor, cognitive and speech tests in the home: analysis of TAS Test in 2,300 older adults (JPAD)

Authors: Huang Li, Roccati E, Lawler K, Bindoff AD, King A, Vickers JC, Bai Q & Alty J

Publisher: *The Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease*

Title: Computer Vision in Clinical Neurology: a review

Authors: Friedrich M, Wong D, Relton S & Alty J

Publisher: *JAMA Neurology*

Title: Post-diagnostic support in Australia: Perspectives of people recently diagnosed with dementia and their carers.

Authors: Pavkovic S, Goldberg L, Abela M, Alty J & Low L

Publisher: *Sage Journals*

Title: Defining familiarity in nursing homes providing care for residents with dementia: a scoping review

Authors: Sun J, Brenna S & Doan T

Publisher: *Frontiers*

Title: Loneliness and social isolation correlate with multiple modifiable risk factors for chronic diseases including dementia

Authors: Bartlett L, Fair H, Bindoff AD, Kitsos A, Hamrah M, Roccati E & Vickers JC

Publisher: *Journal of Public Health*

Title: Privileging the spirit, voices, and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in dementia care: Education for non-Indigenous health care providers

Authors: Goldberg L, Radford K, Smith K, LoGiudice D, Poulos L, Baldock D, Andersen C, Charles J, Canty A, Bessarab D, Cartwright J, Hughson J, Schmidt M, Evans J, Rivers C, Spotswood & Vickers JC.

Publisher: *ScienceDirect*

Title: Insights for dementia risk reduction among lower SES adults in OECD countries: scoping review of interventions targeting multiple common health risk factors

Authors: Coates A, Fair H, Lea E & Doherty K

Publisher: *Springer Nature Link*

Title: Physical activity and blood-based biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease: fertile ground for future investigation

Author: Roccati E

Publisher: *ScienceDirect*

Title: Developing, implementing, and evaluating the first national Memory and Cognition Clinic Guidelines in Australia

Authors: Mehrani I, Paradise M, Low LF, Kurrle S, Arsenova V, Jahn G, Fyfe K, Michaelian J, Salmon K, Alty J, Naismith S & Sachdev P

Publisher: *Alzheimer's Association*

Title: Development of a diagnostic checklist to identify functional cognitive disorder versus other neurocognitive disorders

Authors: Alty J & Et al.

Publisher: *BMJ Journals*

Title: Mild Cognitive Impairment: Far from "Mild," but Is Deep Brain Stimulation the Solution?

Authors: Thomson C & Alty J

Publisher: *AJOB Neuroscience*

Title: Keeping an eye on Parkinson's disease: colour vision and outer retinal thickness as simple and non-invasive biomarkers

Authors: Alty J & Et al.

Publisher: *Journal of Neurology*

Title: Hand Motor Dysfunction Is Associated with Both Subjective and Objective Cognitive Impairment across the Dementia Continuum

Authors: Rudd K, Lawler K, Callisaya M, Bindoff A, Chiranakorn-Costa S, Li R, McDonald J, Salmon K, Noyce A, Vickers JC & Alty J

Publisher: *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*

Title: Stepping and tapping: combining motor tasks improves cognitive classification

Authors: Rudd K, Callisaya M, Lawler K, Noyce A, Vickers JC & Alty J

Publisher: *GeroScience*

Title: Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation increases synaptic plasticity of cortical axons in the APP/PS1 amyloidosis mouse model

Authors: Fulopova B, Bennett W & Canty A

Publisher: *SPIE.Digital Library*

Title: Falls in people with Alzheimer's disease: Exploring the role of inhibitory control

Authors: Wells M, Alty J, Hinder M & George R

Publisher: *ScienceDirect*

Title: Rapid repetitive syllable sounds associate with episodic memory, executive function, and working memory in cognitively healthy and subjectively impaired older adults

Authors: Giffard J, Li R, Roccati E, Vogel A, Bindoff A, Goldberg L, Bai Q & Alty J

Publisher: *GeroScience*

Title: Parallel Multi-Scale Deep Supervision Net for Hand Key Point Detection

Authors: Li R, Tran S, Garg S, Lawler K, Alty J & Bai Q

Publisher: *IEEE Xplore*

Title: Evaluating the impact of human expertise in human-centered AI: A case study on finger-tapping video analysis for dementia detection

Authors: Li R, Huang G, Chen Y, Wang X, Alty J & Bai Q

Publisher: *ScienceDirect*

Title: Self-testing for symptoms and signs of prodromal alpha-synucleinopathies: results from the Tasmanian ISLAND Sleep Study

Authors: Bramich S, Noyce A, King AE, Roccati E, Naismith S, Vickers JC & Alty J

Publisher: *GeroScience*

Title: A comparison of modifiable risk factors for dementia among South Asian migrants and non-migrants aged 50 or older in Tasmania, Australia

Authors: Hamrah MS, Alty J, Goldberg, Doherty K, Kitsos A, Bindoff A, Roccati E, Yatsuya H & Vickers JC

Publisher: *BMC Public Health*

Title: Putting the patient first: Should general practitioners start people with probable Parkinson's disease on levodopa while awaiting diagnostic confirmation?

Authors: Radford JE, Singh P, Alty J, Callisaya M, Giles L, Nicklason F, Stanton H

Publisher: *Australian Journal of General Practice*

Title: Modifications of Culturally Adapted Versions of the Environmental Assessment Tool-Higher Care: Keys to Increasing the Reliability of Scales

Authors: Brennan S, Fahsold A & Sun J

Publisher: *Journal of Ageing and Environment*

Title: Physical activity and blood-based biomarkers of neurodegeneration in community dwelling Australians from ISLAND (Island Study Linking Ageing and Neurodegenerative Disease)

Authors: Roccati E, Collins JM, Callisaya M & Et. al

Publisher: *Alzheimer's Association*

Title: Are We Asking the Right Questions? Sex Specificity of Dream Characteristics in Probable Rapid Eye Movement Sleep Behaviour Disorder

Authors: Bramich S, Noyce A, Perez-Carbonell L, King AE, Naismith S, Wang X, Bindoff A, Vickers JC & Alty J

Publisher: *International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society*

Title: Gait in older people with cognitive impairments during rhythmic auditory cueing: A Scoping review

Authors: Msigwa S, Alty J, St George R & Callisaya M

Publisher: *Experimental Ageing Research*

Title: Advice to people with Parkinson's in my clinic: How to manage running-induced dystonia

Authors: Callisaya M, Alty J & Et.al

Publisher: *Journal of Parkinson's Disease*

Title: Cultural knowledge in the digital space: Cultural Knowledge in the Digital Space: Aboriginal Elders Guiding Online Dementia Education

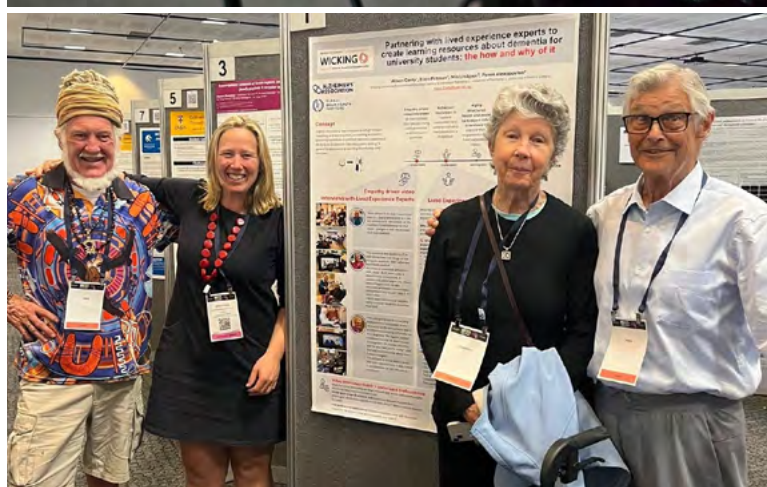
Authors: Goldberg L, Poulos L, Baldock D, Abdullah Y, Moffatt L, Dick L, Andersen C, Canty A, Cartwright J & Schmidt M

Publisher: *Australian Journal of Dementia Care*

► Top: Filming 2025 Wicking Dementia Centre Graduate.

Middle: Associate Professor Alison Canty at the 2025 Australasian Neurologists Society Forum.

Bottom: Distinguished Professor James Vickers at the celebration of his retirement.



Wicking Dementia Centre – 2025 Publications CONT.

Title: The effect of six weeks advanced oral care on oral microbiome and mycobiome composition in people with dementia living in residential aged care

Authors: Khadka S, Bowman J, Gautam S, Goldberg L, King AE, Crocombe LA & Bettiol S

Publisher: *Clinical, and Experimental Dental Research*

Title: Challenges and facilitators of implementing a participatory nutrition project in residential aged care

Authors: Lea E, Goldberg LR, McInerney F & Beattie E

Publisher: *Journal of Research in Nursing*

Title: Growing closer: Addressing nature disconnection in dementia

Authors: NguyenH, Thomson C, Sun J & March P

Publisher: *Wellbeing, Space, and Society, Volume 9*

Title: The Tasmania-London (TASLON) protocol to detect isolated REM sleep behaviour disorder using home-based video-polysomnography, Sleep, 2025

Authors: Bramich S, Noyce AJ, King A, Higgins S, Simonet C, Bindoff A, Naismith S, Vickers JC, Pérez-Carbonell L & Alty J

Publisher: *Oxford Academic*

Title: Chronic Pain in Parkinson's Disease: Prevalence, Sex Differences, Regional Anatomy and Comorbidities

Authors: Alty J & Et.al

Publisher: *National Library of Medicine*

Title: Structural plasticity in the motor cortex: Differential impacts of learning and Li-iTBS on dendritic spine dynamics

Authors: Langley RC, Bennett W, Hinder MR, Rodger J, Summers J & Canty AJ

Publisher: *Neuroscience*

Title: Mind, Culture and Environment: Reconceptualising Dementia Research with Indigenous Peoples

Authors: Roher S & Canty AJ

Publisher: *Australian Journal of Dementia Care*

Title: Re-Centering Precision Medicine on the Person: The Potential Role of Values- Based Practice,

Authors: Alexopoulos P, Canty AJ, Dasgupta J, Furlano JA & Nogueira Haas A

Publisher: *Achaiki Iatriki Official Journal of the Medical Society of Western Greece and Peloponnesus*

Title: A comparison of modifiable risk factors for dementia among South Asian migrants and non-migrants aged 50 or older in Tasmania, Australia

Authors: Hamrah M, Alty J, Goldberg LR, Doherty K, Kitsos A, Bindoff A, Roccati E, Yatsuya H & Vickers JC

Publisher: *BMC Public Health*

Title: Modifiable Dementia Risk Factors by Country of Birth among South Asian Migrants Aged 50 or Older in Tasmania, Australia

Authors: Hamrah M, Alty J, Goldberg LR, Doherty K, Kitsos A, Bindoff A, Roccati E, Koirala Y, Eccleston C & Vickers JC

Publisher: *BMC Public Health*

Title: Dementia risk literacy in older Australians: beyond knowledge

Authors: Eccleston C, Kitsos A, Vickers JC & Doherty K

Publisher: *ConnectSCI*

Title: The Poorer You Are, the Harder It Is": Perspectives on Community Health Promotion in Tasmania

Authors: Coates L, Fair H & Doherty K

Publisher: *Health Promotion Journal of Australia 37*

Title: Bringing dementia expertise to the residential aged care workforce: A new approach

Authors: Lea E, Doherty K, Hendriks W & Robinson A

Publisher: *Australian Journal of Dementia Care*

Title: Independent Effects of Biological Sex and SARM1 Deletion on Glia Following Diffuse Traumatic Brain Injury

Authors: Doust YV, Rowe RK, Langley RC, King AE & Ziebell JM

Publisher: *National Library of Medicine*

Title: Worsened axonal injury and gliosis following diffuse brain injury in male and female mice with neurofilament light gene deletion

Authors: Doust YV, Rowe RK, Langley RC, Garratt EA, King AE & Ziebell JM

Publisher: *National Library of Medicine*

Title: I am Trying so Hard to Smile': Ableism and Feeling Rules When Living with Traumatic Brain Injury

Authors: Barnes A, Cook PS, Padgett C, & Ziebell JM

Publisher: *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*

Title: Arts in health' approaches to support dementia

Authors: Akindejoye, F & Et.al

Publisher: *Dementia care and provision in the majority world (Chapter 10, pp. 200–216) Routledge*

Title: Association of chronic pain and analgesic use with the risks of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease

Authors: Vazirian F, Tian J, Alty J, Aitken D, Callisaya ML, King A, Vickers JC, Cicuttini F, Jones G & Pan F

Publisher: *Geroscience*

Title: Strength of associations between regional brain volumes and dual decline in gait and memory

Authors: Karunaratna S, Breslin M, Alty J, McDonald JS, Beare R, Srikanth VK, Collyer TA & Callisaya ML

Publisher: *National Library of Medicine*

Title: Smartphone self-testing of hand and speech motor functions: a study of reliability and usability in older adults

Authors: Li R, Rudd K, Roccati E, Goldberg LR, Bindoff A, Lawler K, Aiyede M, Simonet C, Mulisa D, King A, Vickers JC, Bai Q & Alty J

Publisher: *National Library of Medicine*

► Distinguished Professor James Vickers and Lauchlan McIntosh, Alchemy Chorus, Canberra.

WICKING

DEMENTIA RESEARCH
& EDUCATION CENTRE

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
WICKING
Dementia Research and Education Centre

MS Queensland

MND MOOC

Grow your knowledge of
Motor Neurone Disease (MND)
and make a difference



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Our People 2025

The Wicking Dementia Centre has continued to grow throughout 2025 with 80 staff and 35 PHD students working across many projects. The Executive oversees the strategic and operational direction of the Centre.

Wicking Dementia Centre – Executive Team



Distinguished Professor James Vickers

Director

Professor James Vickers is a founding Director of the Wicking Dementia Centre and a leading Australian neuroscientist whose work spans Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injury, brain plasticity, and dementia risk reduction. A Past-President of the Australasian Neuroscience Society and Board Member of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation, he is recognised nationally for his contributions to dementia science and advocacy.

James leads the ISLAND Project, a large-scale public health initiative aimed at reducing dementia risk across Tasmania through education, behaviour change, and community engagement.

Under his leadership, the Wicking Dementia Centre has grown into the premier hub for dementia research and education. Its flagship Massive Open Online Courses have reached hundreds of thousands of learners worldwide, offering free, accessible, and high-quality education that is transforming global understanding of dementia.

Professor James Vickers officially announced his retirement as Director of the Wicking Dementia Research & Education Centre at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) at the end of December 2025.



Dr Sam Poynter

Business Manager

Sam Poynter is the Business Manager for the Wicking Dementia Centre, where he plays a pivotal role in overseeing the Centre's operations and strategic coordination. With a strong background in research administration and organisational management, Sam ensures that projects, people, and resources are aligned to support the Centre's mission.

His expertise underpins the Centre's work in advancing dementia research and education, contributing to initiatives that make a meaningful difference for communities living with dementia.



Professor Anna King

Associate Director (Research)

Professor Anna King is a leading researcher in neurodegenerative diseases associated with ageing, with expertise spanning frontotemporal dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and motor neurone disease. She serves as the Associate Director (Research) at the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre and is an NHMRC Boosting Dementia Research Leadership Fellow, reflecting her national standing in dementia research.

Anna also plays a pivotal role in shaping the Centre's educational programs, contributing to both the Bachelor of Dementia Care and the internationally recognised Understanding Dementia MOOC, helping to build a skilled and informed dementia care workforce.



**Associate Professor
Alison Canty**

*Associate Director
(Learning and Teaching)*

Alison Canty has been a driving force behind the development and rapid expansion of the Dementia Care Degree Program, playing a central role in shaping its direction and maintaining strong education governance within the Centre. Her research is grounded in the field of neuroplasticity, with a particular focus on the cellular and molecular processes that underpin repair, regeneration, and degeneration in the central nervous system.

Alongside her research, Alison contributes to a range of educational and community engagement initiatives. She is deeply committed to advancing brain health and strengthening dementia care through collaborative work that bridges science, education, and community impact.



Dr Kathleen Doherty

*Senior Research Lead Dementia
MOOCs, EQUIP and DREAM Project*

Kathleen Doherty leads the Wicking Dementia Centre's Translational Research group, driving work that connects cutting-edge evidence with real-world education, care, and community practice. She oversees a dynamic program of research centred on the Centre's globally recognised MOOCs, advancing dementia literacy and empowering learners to shift knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours through accessible education. Kathleen also contributes to the Centre's teaching through the Master of Dementia, helping shape the next generation of leaders in dementia care.

Kathleen heads the Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring (DREAM) Project, a national initiative improving respite experiences for people living with dementia and their care partners. Kathleen also leads the Equip Aged Care Learning initiative, a free, sector-wide online education program designed to strengthen capability and confidence across the aged care workforce.



Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre – Staff and Students 2025

Staff

Adam Kane, Project Officer
ISLAND Project

Adele Woodhouse, Senior Lecturer in Dementia

Aidan Bindoff, Research Fellow

Alex Kitsos, Data Analyst

Alice Rota-Bartelink, Senior Lecturer in Dementia

Alison Canty, Associate Professor

Andrew Phipps, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Anna Green, ISLAND Clinic Nurse

Anna King, Professor

Anthony Ray, Senior Administrative Officer – Education Programs

Azam Bazooband, Academic Lead, DREAM and Equip

Bill Bennett, Senior Technical Officer

Brendan Lamb

Cassandra Thomson, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Catherine Robertson, Executive Assistant

Chantal Roddy, Coordinator Community of Practice (DREAM Project)

Claire Eccleston, Senior Lecturer in Dementia Care

Claire Harrington, Engagement Coordinator

Drew Stansbury, Media Resources Officer

Duncan Sinclair, Senior Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Eddy Roccati, Senior Research Fellow

Ella Smith, Administration Officer – DREAM Project

Ellen Pittman, Senior Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Emily Handley, MOOCs Academic Lead

Emma Lea, Senior Lecturer in Dementia

Emma Wilkinson, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Florence Sward, ISLAND Project Officer

Gary Morris, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Graeme McCormack, Drug Discovery Coordinator

Guan Huang, Software Engineer

Hannah Fair, Lecturer in Dementia

Helen Watt, Online Education Coordinator

Helga Jenkins, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Hoang Nguyen, Lecturer

Huni Bolliger, Media Resources Officer

Ignacio Martinez Escobedo, Academic Educational Designer DREAM Project

Lek Lei Senior, Technical Developer

Jacqueline Leung, Academic

Jacqueline Spotswood, Aboriginal Project Officer

James Brady, Postdoctoral Fellow

James Jestrinski, Administration Officer

James Vickers – Director

Jana Talbot, Research Officer

Jane Alty, Professor in Neurology

Jenna Ziebell, Associate Professor

Jennifer Rayner, Manager – Clinical Research Facility

Jessica Collins, Research Fellow

Jiazhen Zhu, Educational Technologist

Joanna Sun, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Joseph Haddon, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Kathleen Doherty, Senior Lecturer in Dementia

Kim Kennedy, Clinic Administrator

Kimberley Stuart, Research Fellow

Larissa Bartlett, Research Fellow

Leanne Chisholm, Research Assistant

Lily Bartkevicius, Student Advisor

Lyn Goldberg, Associate Professor

Maneesh Kuruvilla, Lecturer in Dementia

Matthew Kirkcaldie, Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Melissa Abela, Lecturer in Dementia

Mimieveshiofu Aiyede, Research Officer

Mohammad Shoaib Hamrah, Research Fellow in the Epidemiology of Dementia

Monique Belfer, Clinical Research Officer

Pauline Marsh, Senior Lecturer in Dementia Studies

Rachel Atkinson, Research Fellow

Renjie Li, Postdoc Research Fellow

Sam Poynter, Business Manager

Samantha Bramich, Tasmania Parkinson's Project

Samantha Poulson, Media Resources Officer

Sarah Bascomb, Project Manager, DREAM and Equip Learning

Sharn Perry, Senior Lecturer in Dementia

Sharon Stoddart, Research Fellow – Venture Out

Simon Weber, Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuroscience

Stephen Myers, Senior Lecturer in Health and Biomedical Sciences

Sunny Jang, Lecturer in Dementia

Tim Saunder, Data Analyst

Tony Cook, Lecturer in Dementia

Yasmine Doust, Research Fellow

Yinzie Xie, Software Engineer

PhD Candidates

Aidan Bindoff

Ross Langley

Nina Daniels

Fariha Kabir

Sladana Pavkovic

Benjamin Knowles

Jan Cheng

Ensieh Izadi

Samantha Bramich

Xinyi Wang

Ignacio Martinez Escobedo

Kaylee Rudd

Yashoda Koirala

Adelene Chiam

Laura De Paoli

Lyzette Matthews

Marlee Wells

Guan Huang

Getachew Yitbarek

Zane Farnum

Deepika Dixit

Stephanie Hutt

Elizabeth Read

Diriba Guduma

Oliver Johnstone

Julia Giffard

Amy Coates

Funmi Akindejoye

Emily Garratt

Kelsey Madden

Muthoni Gichu

Rhedeya Nury Nodi

Stefanny Rojas Caceres

Maryam Koraei

Asghar Ali

Donate

Your contribution brings us closer to breakthroughs in care, prevention and understanding.

In 2025 the Wicking Dementia Centre continued to be a leader in dementia research, education, and community impact. Donations and philanthropic support play a vital role in enabling the Wicking Dementia Centre to expand its reach, accelerate scientific discovery, and deliver programs that improve the lives of people living with dementia, their families, and the broader community.



The Importance of Donations

Donations to the Wicking Dementia Centre directly support initiatives that address one of the most pressing health challenges of our time. Dementia affects hundreds of thousands of Australians, and millions globally, and the need for evidence-based care, innovative research, and accessible education has never been greater. Donations allow the Wicking Dementia Centre to:

- Continue to advance world-class research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of dementia.
- Deliver free and accessible online education to tens of thousands of learners globally.
- Support community programs that empower carers and improve quality of life for people living with dementia.
- Invest in new technologies, partnerships, and research infrastructure.



Impact of Donor Support

In 2025, donor generosity has enabled the Centre to:

- Develop and deliver our world-class educational programs that build knowledge and awareness across the community, reaching new international audiences.
- Support early-career researchers working on innovative dementia-related projects.
- Strengthen collaborations with healthcare providers, aged care organisations, and community groups.
- Enhance laboratory and data capabilities that underpin cutting-edge research.



The Future

The Wicking Dementia Centre remains committed to shaping a future where dementia is better understood, better treated, and better supported. Continued donor engagement will be essential as the Centre:

- Pursues new research directions in prevention and early diagnosis.
- Expands its educational offerings to meet growing national and global demand.
- Builds stronger community networks to support ageing populations.
- Dementia doesn't just impact individuals, it reshapes families, workplaces, communities, and health systems. Addressing it requires deep expertise, innovation, and a commitment to translating knowledge into real-world impact — and that's exactly what the Wicking Dementia Centre delivers.



Thank you

We extend our sincere gratitude to all donors whose generosity fuels our mission. Your support strengthens our capacity to innovate, educate, and advocate. Together, we are creating lasting impact for individuals, families, and communities living with dementia

The fight against dementia requires leadership, innovation, and education — and the Wicking Dementia Centre continues to set the benchmark in all three.

A donation to the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre can take many forms and no matter the size of the donation it has a real impact. It can be the difference in a student's study, assist in a breakthrough research discovery that will change people's lives, or help create positive outcomes for our community.

Join us in making a difference

Visit utas.edu.au/wicking/donate to find out more





UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

WICKING 
Dementia Research and Education Centre



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utas.edu.au/wicking

A gift to the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre can take many forms and no matter the size of the gift it has a real impact. It can be the difference in a student's life, assist in a breakthrough research discovery that will change people's lives, or help create positive outcomes for our community.



Visit utas.edu.au/wicking/about/donate to find out more.