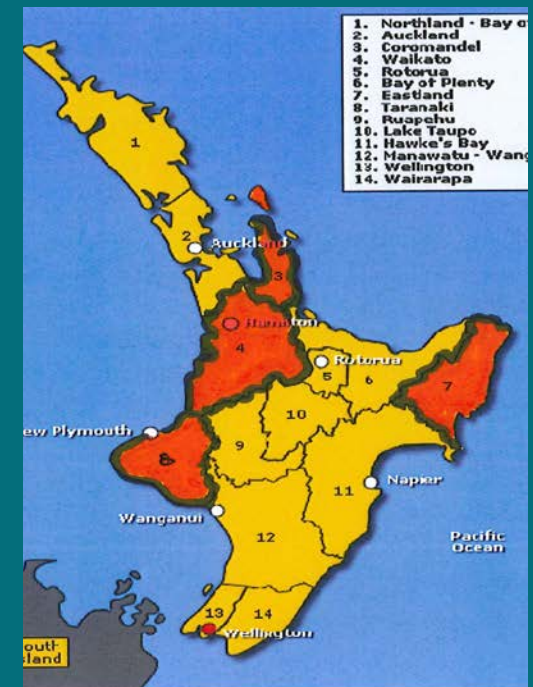


# Demystifying Dementia & Delirium in the Rural Community

Christine Marra and  
Karen Griffin  
October 2016



Waikato District Health Board

# Rural Communities in Waikato Region

- Authentic Partnerships
- Collaboration – partner agencies and community
- Sharing of knowledge
- Partnership approach strengthen collective efforts



# Assessment - Is It Dementia?

Dementia is the umbrella term to describe a syndrome of cognitive loss sufficient to impair a person's ability to function as usual.

- Eliminate secondary causes
- Medication

**Dementia is NOT a normal part of aging**

# Acute Change – Is It Delirium?

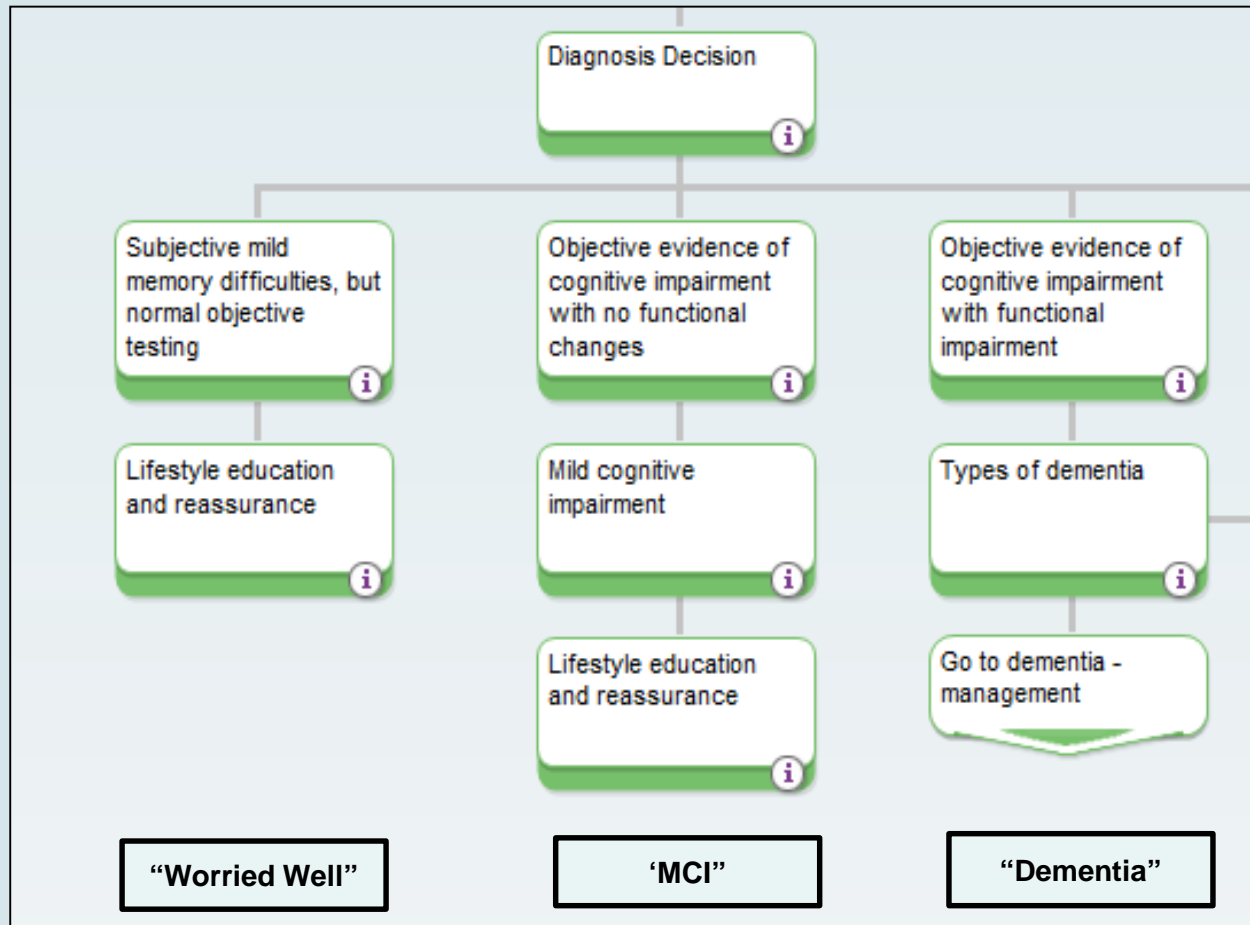
## Delirium is a RED flag

- Acute delirium is suggested by a short history (less than two weeks) in the first instance.
- It is important to note that a person can suffer from chronic delirium (up to 12 months or more).

The confusion assessment method (CAM) assessment tool is used to assess for Delirium



# Cognitive Impairment



# Outcomes

- ↓ Hospital Admissions for Delirium
- If admission required CAM tool has often been completed
- ↑ Skill of workforce
- Standardising assessment

**Communities are already leading the way –**

Cognitive testing | Driving

**Prison Population**





# Resources for Primary and Secondary Services

- Email
- Access to Clinical Supervision
- Provision of post graduate education to Doctors, e.g. competency assessment
- We will 'walk' assessors through the process
- Delirium Book | Ko Awatea



# We Don't Work Alone

- OPR | MHSOP | Memory Service Integrated Filtering of referrals
- Alzheimer's
- Community Pharmacist
- Now sharing this education with Taranaki and Tairāwhiti





# Summary

## Stronger Together - Kotahitanga



# References

- Waikato District Health Board Strategy – *Healthy People Excellent Care*, July 2016
- Professor Stephen Iliffe. Professor of Primary Care, University College London. 2014



# Want to find out more

## Delirium resources

- <http://waikatodhb-ebooks.co.nz/delirium/index.html>

## Ko Awatea

- <https://koawatealearn.co.nz/course/view.php?id=1359#section-2>

