

COULD IT BE DEMENTIA?

Warning signs and when to seek medical advice

At St Luke's Care, we recognise that this is a challenging time for your family. We are here to guide you and your loved one through their diagnosis and support your family every step of the way. It is sometimes easier to react to changes in your loved one's behavior with denial, dismissing them as normal or assuming there is another cause. This can lead to delays between the onset of symptoms and seeking and receiving help.

Often, there can be an incident that triggers a carer to seek help. But why take the risk and wait until then? We understand that talking about dementia can be awkward; there is often stigma and embarrassment involved. However, the earlier it is diagnosed, the better informed and prepared you will be for the future changes dementia will bring to your lives.

EARLY WARNING SIGNS

- ✿ *Misplacing or losing items*
- ✿ *Memory loss*
- ✿ *Repetitive questioning or actions*
- ✿ *Difficulty completing familiar daily tasks*
- ✿ *Confusion about time and place*
- ✿ *Loss of motivation*
- ✿ *Changes in personality or inappropriate behaviour*
- ✿ *Difficulty with speech*
- ✿ *Inability to focus for long periods of time*
- ✿ *Losing interest in previously enjoyed activities*
- ✿ *Loss of social skills*
- ✿ *Loss of spatial perception which can lead to falls*

If you notice any of these changes, it is important you consult your GP.

At St Luke's Care, our specially trained dementia support team is here for you and your loved one. We have many programs including home care, residential aged care, respite care and social and community programs.



ST LUKE'S CARE

Michelle Beaumont - Dementia Consultant - 0434 826 714 - mbeaumont@slc.org.au

St Luke's Care 18 Roslyn Street Potts Point NSW 2011 www.slc.org.au