

APPROPRIATE CARE IN HOSPITALS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

2016 Annual Meeting Resolution

'We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital.'

Proposed by Norley WI, Cheshire Federation

Passed by 79% majority

What is the issue?

This campaign seeks to improve the hospital care of those with dementia (but who may have been admitted to hospital for an unrelated condition) by calling for hospitals to provide facilities to enable their family carer to have better or extended access to them during their hospital stay. Providing 'facilities' could mean a hospital offering extended visiting hours for family carers, providing family rooms, or any other practical provision that would enable carers to stay with their loved one for longer periods of time or when is more convenient for them.

Why does this matter?

One quarter of all hospital beds in the UK are occupied by someone with dementia. Yet, these wards are usually not designed to cater to their dementia-related needs and as a consequence their care is failing them. Alzheimer's Society research has shown that 92% of patients with dementia find the hospital environment frightening and 60% of carers report that their loved one was not treated with dignity while in hospital.

Poor care while in hospital has proven devastating for those with dementia; thirty-three per cent admitted with an unrelated condition will never return to their own homes. It not an overstatement to say that dementia care in hospital is in crisis.

What do we want to achieve with this campaign?

Although the specifics of the campaign will be detailed in full in an action-pack to be sent to all WIs in the August mailing, the campaign aims to:

- Empower WI members to act as local agents of change in their community hospital wards/ NHS trusts.
- Educate WI members about their rights as carers so that they can make full and appropriate use of the facilities already in place that will enable them to better care for their loved one.
- Gain commitments from NHS Trusts to provide facilities that would make it easier or more feasible for family carers of those with dementia to stay with their loved one.
- Reinvigorate the WI's involvement with the *Dementia Friends & Champions* programme.
- Produce high quality research that can serve as a unique evidence base on the experiences of family carers today. If you have the relevant experience and would be willing to add your voice to our campaign please fill out the below and send back to the NFWI.



Cut along the dotted line and send back to Public Affairs, NFWI, 104 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LY



I've cared for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's disease who has spent time in hospital during the past 5 years and I would be willing to take part in NFWI research about my experiences as a carer.

NAME:

WI, FEDERATION:

CONTACT EMAIL OR POSTAL ADDRESS:

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