



A guide to the four levels of residential care which are available for people with dementia in Canterbury

There are two main levels of residential care available for people with dementia in Canterbury who have been assessed as eligible for, or requiring, this care – **Rest Home level** and **Hospital level**. Each of these levels can be divided into two more distinct categories of residential facilities/units:

General Rest Home – People who require this level of care usually have some ability to move around on their own or with someone helping them. They may require more assistance with personal care and general day to day activities than is possible in the community. Some people with dementia may be appropriately supported in a general rest home, providing there are no 'dementia-related behaviours' of concern eg wandering and getting lost, aggression, inappropriate toileting are a few.

Dementia Rest Home – Dementia rest homes (or dementia units in general rest homes) provide a secure home for those with a diagnosis of dementia for whom there are physical, social and/or emotional safety concerns.

General Hospital – General Hospital level of care is provided for those who have a significant disability and/or medical concerns. Most in this category require the assistance of two people to move about safely.

Specialist Dementia Hospital - This type of care, previously known as "psychogeriatric level of care", is designed for people with a mental health disorder or dementia who require a higher level of nursing care and management of challenging behaviour. They therefore require a secure environment and the skills of staff trained in a specialist setting.

Notes

Assessment of the appropriate level of residential care is based on the assessment of the level and type of assistance deemed necessary for the person with dementia to be physically, socially, and emotionally safe. It is not based on how long the person has had symptoms of, or a diagnosis of, dementia.

Some residential care facilities provide more than one category/level of care.

People with dementia will be clinically reassessed before any move is made from one type of residential care to another. Although a facility may provide more than one category of care, transfer within the same facility is not always possible (due, for example, to a shortage of available beds at that time).

Residential care at Rest Home and Hospital levels is provided by private or Church/Trust organisations which generally have contracts with the Canterbury District Health Board, (and include auditing provisions), not by public hospitals such as Burwood Hospital.

The most up to date list of residential care facilities in Canterbury is the electronic list on the website of Eldernet - www.eldernet.co.nz Free copies of their booklet entitled 'Where from here He ara whakamua' are available from Dementia Canterbury.

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