

# Dementia-Specific Christian Worship Service Handbook



## Background

A pilot Dementia-Specific Church Service initiative commenced in January 2014 to provide pastoral and spiritual care to residents living with dementia. Previously these residents had attended regular church services but they did not appear to connect emotionally and spiritually with the service or others attending the service. The dementia-specific service encourages residents living with dementia to actively participate and enables them to talk and connect with others, and God.

*“Since beginning the dementia services, our staff are noticing a reduction in disruptive behaviour at meal times and less anxiety between residents” – Member Survey*

## Who benefits

Family members also attend the church services and have commented on the difference the services have made to their parents' mood and spirit. Some staff and volunteers take part in the service and are supportive and respectful of this time. Additionally, there is a direct impact on most other residents and staff as they live or work within a social environment that is settled, happy and engaged.

**“Even though I have been leading worship in a dementia specific facility for seven years, I was still able to learn something from the book. A truly wonderful resource!” – Frank, Aged Care Chaplain**

## Order Now

The Meaningful Ageing Australia **Dementia-Specific Christian Worship Service Handbook** is now available at no extra cost to Meaningful Ageing Australia members, and available for purchase by non-members. To order your copies, go to our resources portal: [meaningfulageing.org.au/resources/](http://meaningfulageing.org.au/resources/)

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*Information adapted from the Churches of Christ Care, Qld research project*