



The Specialist Mental Health Service for Older People (SMHSOP) aims to provide an accessible service for older people with mental health disorders, (including dementia with behavioural and psychological changes) who need appropriate specialised assessment and management advice. The Service provides multidisciplinary outpatient assessment and community services in the Hunter.

Outpatient Clinic and Community Visiting - Hunter

This arm of the Service does not provide ongoing direct care but provides specialised advice for carers and health professionals.

Outpatient Clinic appointments are offered at the McAuley Centre situated at The Mater Waratah. Community visits can be arranged for older people referred to the service who are unable to attend the Clinic.

Assessment often involves a combination of Medical, Community Nursing, Psychology, Social work or Occupational Therapy staff.

Two specialist nurses provide a behaviour management advisory service, for people with dementia and their carers where severe and persistent behaviour disturbance impacts on their care. Visits are arranged to aged care facilities for assessment, support and short term follow up.

Referral

Referrals are accepted from GPs as well as other health professionals but a medical referral is needed if diagnostic tests or medical treatment are needed.

Service Location and Contact

Mc Auley Outpatient Services

(02) 403 35600

Mc Auley Centre The Mater Edith St
Waratah NSW 2298

Other SMHSOP Services

There are Specialist Mental Health Service staff for Older People working within the multi-disciplinary Community Mental Health Services. Older patients with psychiatric disorders (such as mood disorders and psychotic disorders) requiring case management and treatment in the community can be referred to these services. (see Navigators Guide Fact Sheet for more information)¹.

An acute inpatient assessment unit at the Mental Health Centre, The Mater, Waratah, admits older people with mental illnesses or severe behavioural disturbance related to dementia. Psychiatric assessment is prioritised through a triage process via the 24-hour service based at Calvary Mater Newcastle (CMN), via the Emergency Department. (see Navigators Guide Fact Sheet for more information)²

24 Hour Mental Health Hotlines

Emergency or Crisis after hours by local region

Newcastle (Southern) 1800 655 085

Taree (Manning) 1300 369 968

Tamworth (Northern) 1300 669 757

¹ Community Mental Health Services NG3

² What to do in an Emergency or Crisis NG2

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There is a long stay unit at Morisset, and assessment units at Tamworth and Wingham which provide inpatient assessment and intervention services for people with dementia and behavioural and psychological changes.

Tamworth Phone: 02 6767 8450

Wingham Phone: 02 6557 3444

What if a Families first language is not English?

Trained interpreters are available. Just ask staff. The Multicultural Liaison Officer can offer support and education for consumers and carers from non – English speaking backgrounds. Literature is available in a number of community languages.

Is there support for Aboriginal consumers and families?

You may contact the **Aboriginal Liaison Officer** who offers support; information and education (see Navigators Guide Fact Sheet for more information).³

Other Related Services

Dementia Advisory Services provide information, education, support, and links to services for those people with Dementia who do not require specialist Mental Health Services.

Alzheimer's Australia provides a telephone information and support service. National Dementia Helpline Phone : 1800 100 500

Newcastle/Lake Macquarie

Phone: (02) 4985 5715

Lower Hunter

Phone: (02) 4939 1050

Upper Hunter

Phone: (02) 6542 2707

Mid North Coast

Phone: (02) 6584 7444

New England (Glen Innes)

Phone: (02) 6739 0100

New England (Narrabri)

Phone: (02) 6799 2000

³ Aboriginal Services and Support NG5