

The background image shows the exterior of a modern, multi-story hospital building with a mix of grey and white panels and large glass windows. A sign on the left side of the building reads "Emergency" with a red arrow pointing right. Another sign on the right side of the building reads "GOLD COAST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL". The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, there are some green plants and a road with a yellow and black striped crosswalk.

Approaches to care of people living with dementia at Gold Coast Health

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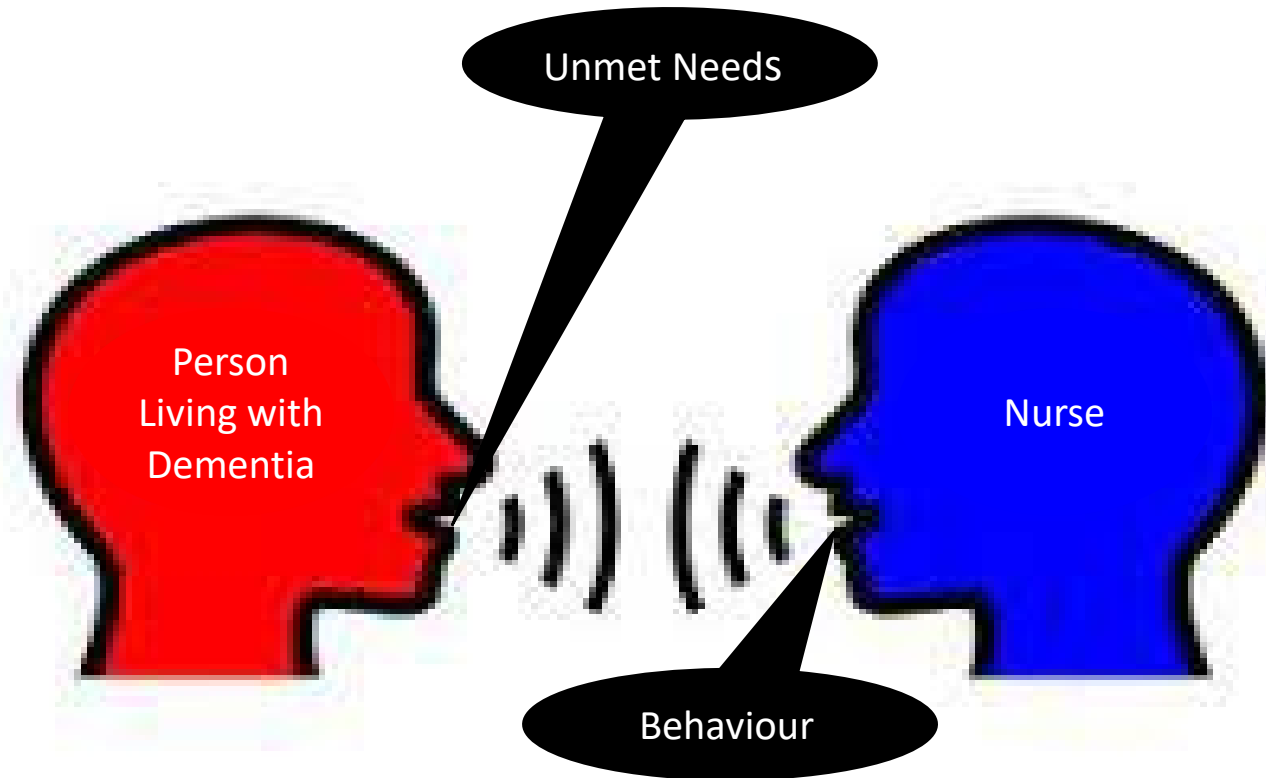
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OVERVIEW

- Reconceptualise 'behaviours' as 'altered communication'
- Assess needs to plan actions
- Fundamental Care: Relationship as the foundation for care
- Communicate care to people living with dementia
- Challenge of culture



Reconceptualise behaviour as altered communication



Fundamental Care Cognitive Impairment and ORGANIC BRAIN changes

Delirium

Dementia Syndrome

Traumatic Brain Injury

Stroke

Challenges with processing information



Difficulty in distinguishing what is seen and heard

Altered emotional regulation

Underlying organic brain changes can alter how individuals with cognitive impairment **COMMUNICATE** their feeling, needs, and **ADJUST** to change.

ANTICIPATE...

...needs such as comfort, hunger, thirst, elimination, social engagement, mobilisation

ASSESS...

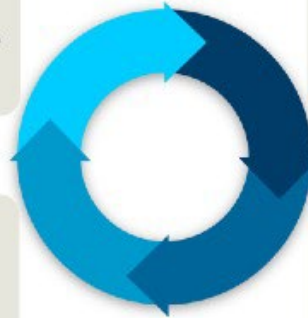
...to confirm assumptions using an acronym like **PINCH ME**

ANALYSE...

...the action. Did it work?

ACT...

...to maintain well-being



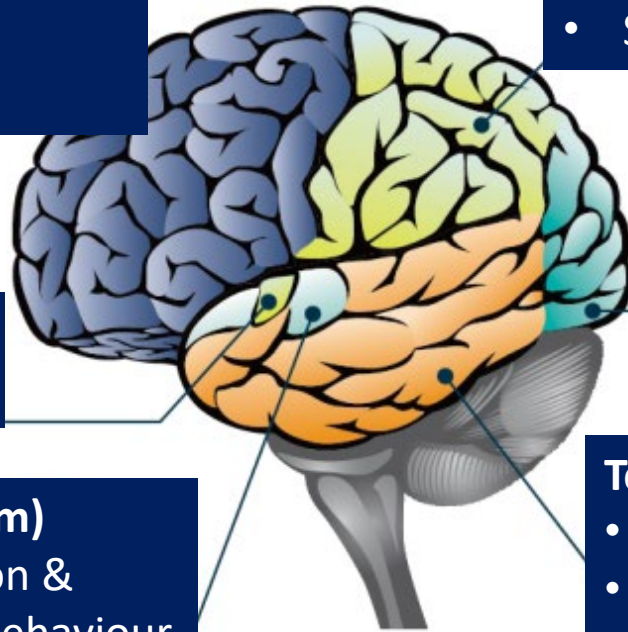
Reconceptualise behaviour as altered communication

Frontal Lobes

- Planning & problem-solving
- Judgement & Inhibition
- Language production
- Self-regulation

Parietal lobe

- Positioning and Recognition
- Reading, Writing, Number processing
- Sensitivity to sound, taste, touch, temperature



Occipital Lobes

- Vision
- Difficulty distinguishing what is seen

Hippocampus

- Memory

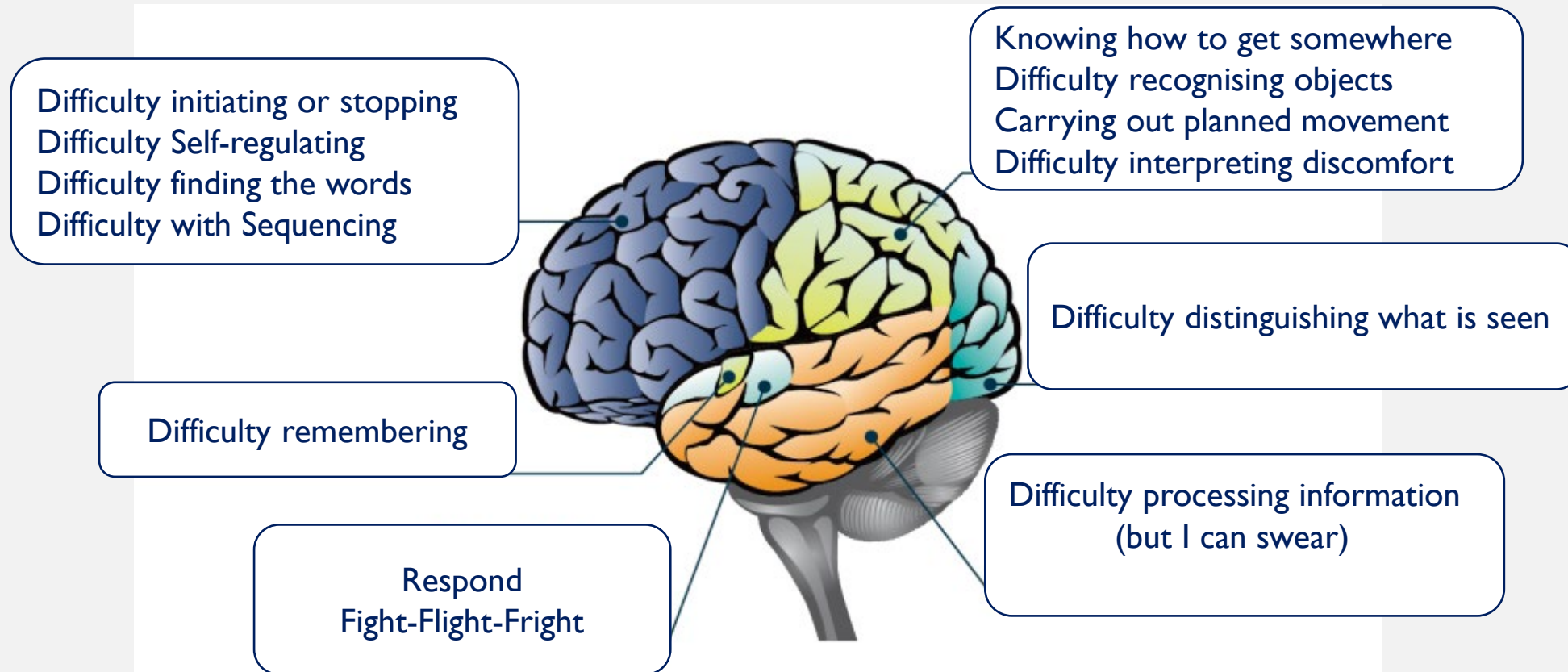
Amygdala (within limbic system)

- Connect and process emotion & memories associated with behaviour
- **Fight-Fright-Flight**

Temporal Lobe

- Memory
- Comprehension & auditory processing
- Music, rhythm, swear words

Reconceptualise behaviour as altered communication



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Underlying organic brain changes can alter how individuals with cognitive

Anticipate

engagement, mobilisation

Assess

an acronym like **PINCH ME**

ANALYSE...

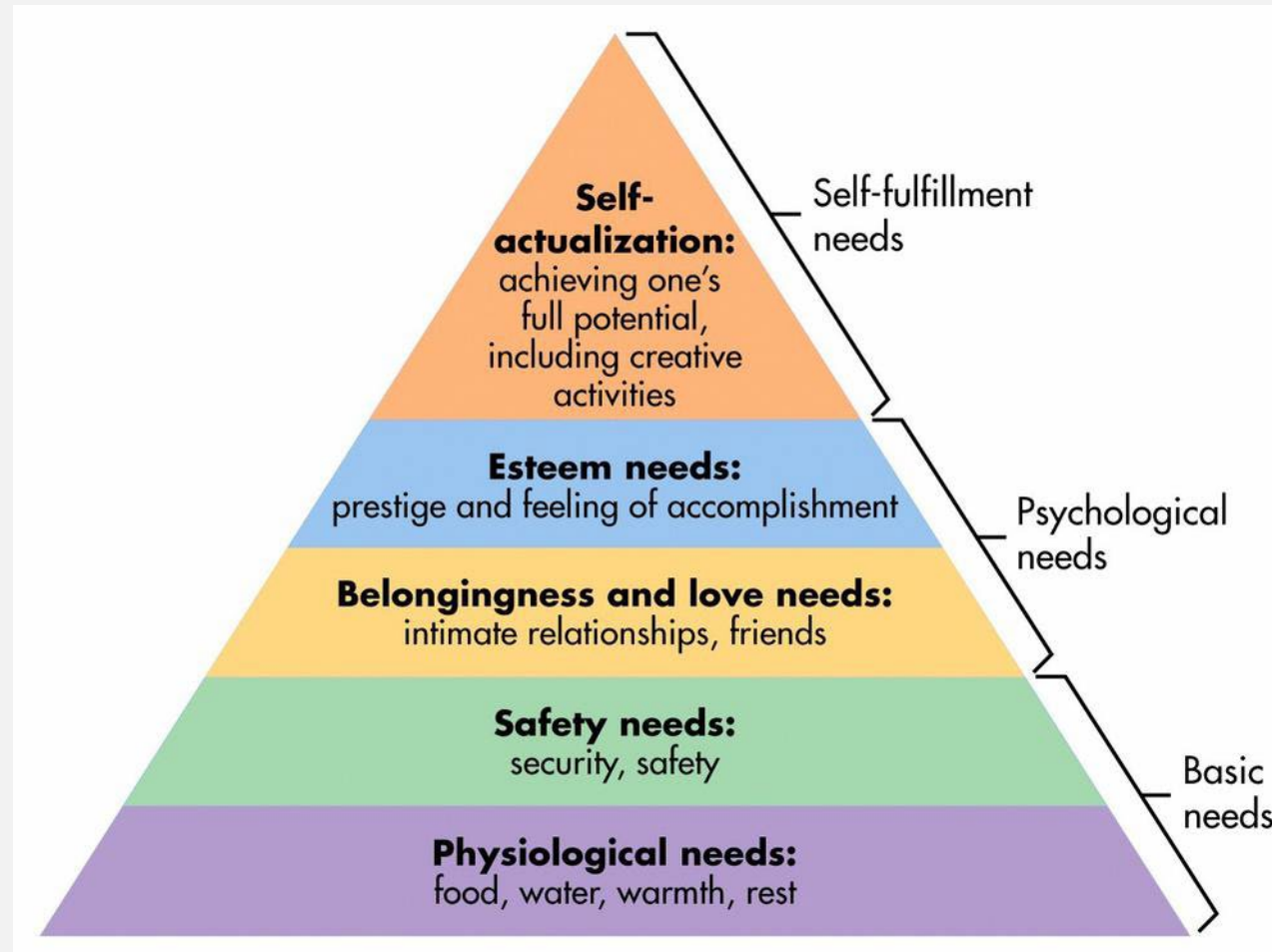
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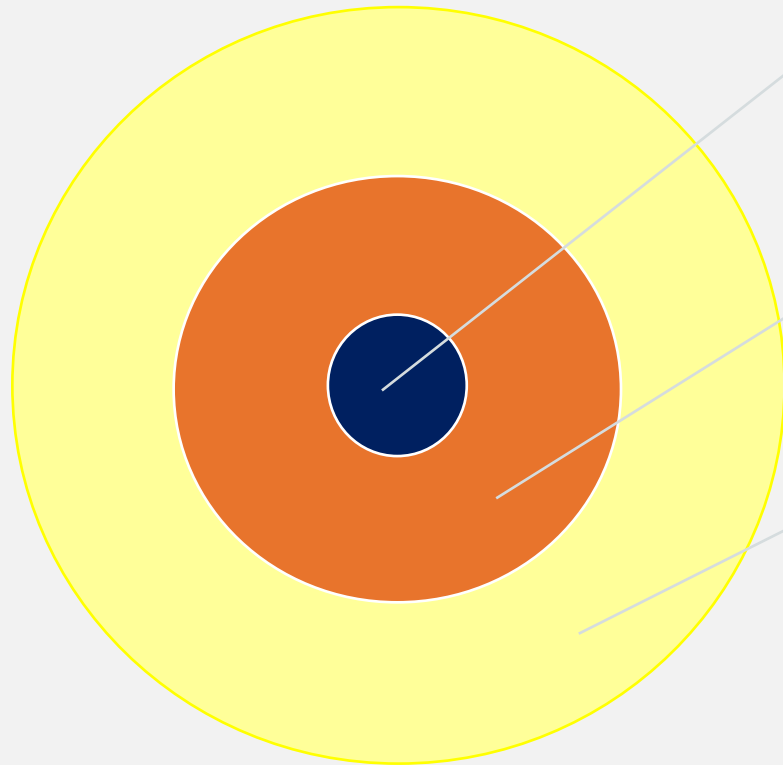
ACT...

...to maintain well-being

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Needs: Fundamentals of Care



Relationship

- belongingness, security & safety

Integrated Fundamentals of Care

- Food, water, warmth, rest, comfort, elimination, ambulation

Context

- Culture, business goals, staff shared understanding

Needs: Fundamentals of Care

<p>Anticipate & Assess</p>	<p>Physical: Consider pain, constipation, hunger, thirst.</p> <p>Intellectual: Feeling disorganised, confused, frustrated?</p> <p>Emotional: Sad, lonely, afraid or anxious?</p> <p>Environment: Find their way around e.g. toilet, bedroom? Hot/cold/cluttered</p> <p>Social self: Learn about what is important to the person, their preferences.</p> <p>Capabilities: Strengths? Maintain function and independence?</p>
<p>Act</p>	<p>Administer analgesics and aperients as required.</p> <p>Provide fundamental care including adequate hygiene (including mouthcare), food and fluid intake, and mobilisation at least five times per day.</p> <p>Use information about the person, such as their preferred daily routines, who and what is meaningful to them, in communication.</p>

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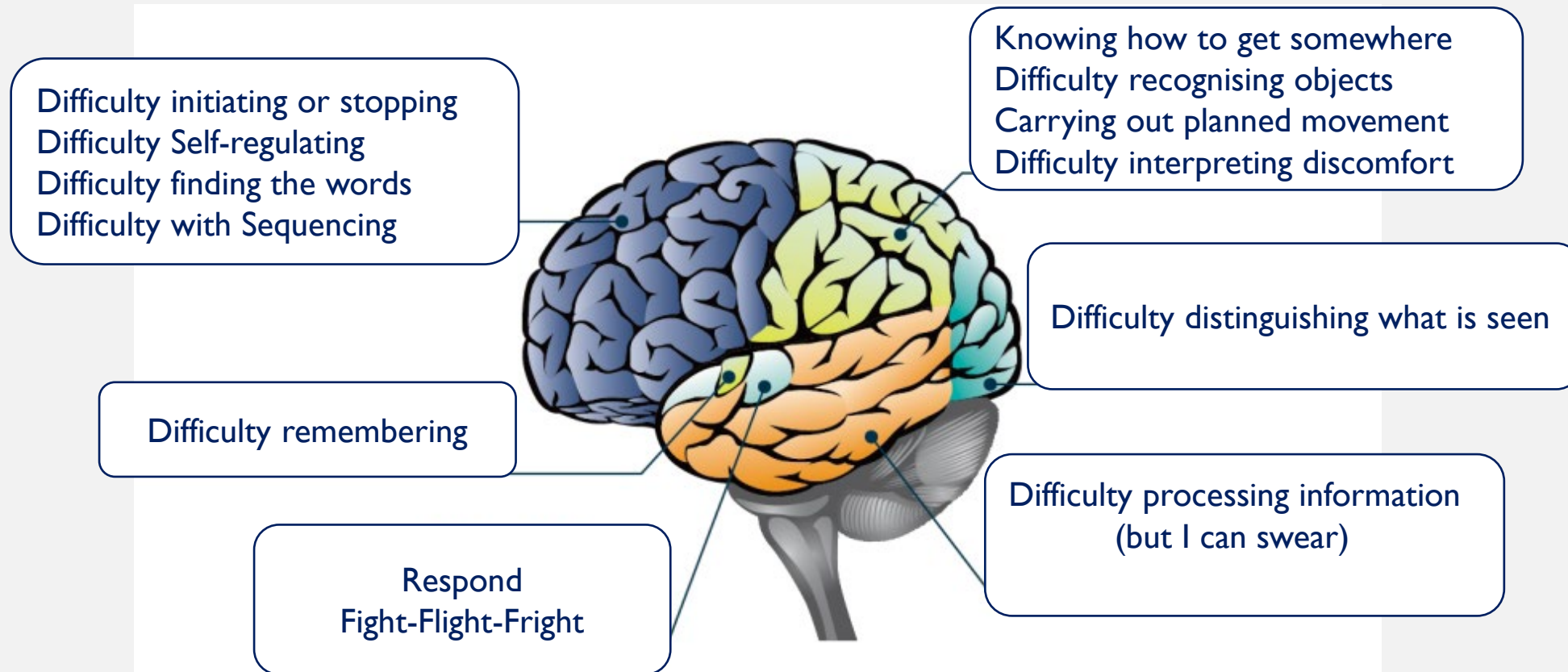
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...to confirm assumptions using an acronym like **PINCH ME**

Analyse

Act

Reconceptualise behaviour as altered communication



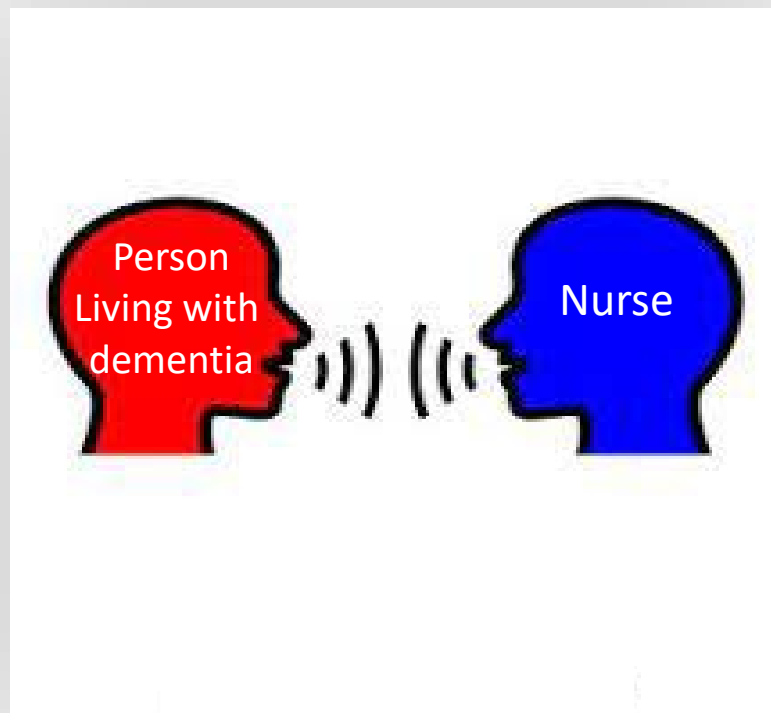
COMMUNICATING CARE

How people living with dementia communicate is related to changes in the brain...

Perceive

Interpret

Respond



Approach

Can the person see you?

Can the person process what you're trying to communicate?

Observe & listen to their response

The more you push the more they will push back....

You're trying to help but maybe it's not the help they want or need...

CHALLENGES (CONTEXT)

Western society is ageist, with inherent bias against older people evident in our language and expression

Hospitals were established for acute medical care but older people are increasingly requiring nursing, allied health and social services so don't 'fit' acute care model

Dementia is treated like a disease but it is a syndrome, with limited medical treatment options available

QUESTIONS

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