## How do people who have dementia remain connected in their communities in Aotearoa New Zealand?

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## Research Idea

## A multi method study is proposed in order to investigate how people who have dementia and those who live with and/or informally care for them experience connection with their communities. The first part of the study will be a nationwide survey based on the Alzheimer’s International dimensions of dementia-friendliness (Alzheimer's Disease International, n.d.a).

## The second part of the study will utilise a qualitative methodology to explore how people living with dementia in one or two communities remain connected in their communities. At least one community will be rural.

## Supporting evidence

## The proportion of older people in the New Zealand (NZ) population is increasing (Statistics New Zealand, 2014). Dementia is not an inevitable consequence of ageing, however the prevalence of dementia is higher in older aged persons (Alzheimer’s Disease International, n.d.b). In 2007 the World Health Organisation (WHO) developed the age-friendly cities guidelines for communities working to make their cities more conducive to continued engagement by older people (WHO, 2007). The concept of dementia-friendly communities has developed from the notion of age-friendly cities. According to Crampton & Eley (2013), dementia-friendly communities enable people who live with dementia to remain safe and physically and socially engaged in their communities. An important aspect of the dementia-friendly concept is that the views of people who have dementia must be incorporated in plans for developing a dementia-friendly community (Alzheimer's Disease International, n.d.a).

## While there are some dementia-friendly initiatives in NZ, limited research has been conducted on this topic. This research will enable the views of people who have dementia to inform future dementia-friendly initiatives in NZ.

## Questions for audience

## Is the topic one that needs to be researched?

## Is the proposed approach the right one to generate useful knowledge?

## Is anybody else doing this work in NZ?

## References

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