

Common Questions

What does this implementation booklet do?

This booklet provides a step-by-step guide and resources for implementing Tapestry.

How can residents and family benefit from Tapestry?

The Tapestry program aims to improve each resident's quality of care and quality of life. Tapestry is an opportunity for residents and families to openly and honestly discuss the resident's care journey ahead. Tapestry also provides a new platform for residents, families, doctors, therapists, nurses and care staff to work together towards the hopes and dreams that residents have identified as important for their quality of life.

Who should use this implementation booklet?

This manual is intended for clinical and aged care staff, including facility managers, managers of clinical practice, care managers, lifestyle staff, allied health care professionals and doctors. It can be provided to residents and families who request further information about the program than what is provided in pamphlets.

Who developed Tapestry?

Tapestry was developed by staff at Royal Freemasons and researchers at the National Ageing Research Institute. The key developers were Assoc Prof Samuel Scherer, Ms Marie Vaughan, and Dr Steven Savvas. Pilot work was funded by the Keith and Aya Thornton Trust and the program was expanded and tested with funding provided through the Dementia and Aged Care Services (DACS) Fund, Australian Government Department of Health.

Can I just use one or two element of the program?

Though the Tapestry tools are designed to work together, you can use just one or two elements of the program. If your organisation has identified a need to improve the communication about the care you provide between the care team, residents and families, then the Transition Map tool may be used. If staff require a more structured approach in helping the residents achieve their hopes and dreams, then the HOW tool may be used. If doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners wish to engage with the clinical dimension of Tapestry then the CIRS-NH may be used.

How much time does it take?

For staff with a good understanding of the medical and care needs of their residents, our experience is that, once education has been provided to staff, the Tapestry tools can be an efficient tool. What may take time is a culture change at the facility – that is, a culture change to fully embracing Tapestry in all its dimensions.

What resources do I need to invest?

Providing staff with some protected learning time when first implementing Tapestry is certainly beneficial. Our experience is that once a majority of residents are on the Tapestry program, a culture change to thinking about Tapestry is more likely. Also important is that senior management at the facility commit to the Tapestry program. This support is vital for good integration of Tapestry into day-to-day care practices of staff at all levels.

How much does Tapestry cost?

Tapestry is free to use in Australian residential aged care facilities.