

3rd September 2014

Broughton House Carers Open Day

The Macarthur Dementia Day Centre at Broughton House will open its doors on 16th September for its 2014 Open Day.

The Centre, next door to Camden Hospital, provides a secure, home-like atmosphere where people with mild to severe memory problems have the freedom to move about and socialise in safety and comfort, while providing respite for carers and keeping people out of a nursing home for longer.

Elayne Armer, Service Manager for Aged Care and Rehabilitation said the Centre's philosophy is to provide respite with respect and dignity in a safe, friendly and stimulating environment.

"Many clients live with their families who care for them, so this gives those carers the opportunity to have a break while their loved ones can spend the day doing activities specifically designed for them by a diversional therapist," she said.

The Macarthur Dementia Day Centre provides important services such as recreational activities, transport, hot meals and assistance with medication and personal care needs.

"Broughton House has been purpose-built to accommodate up to 18 clients with wheelchair access and a garden setting in a secure environment," Ms Armer said.

"We all forget things from time to time, perhaps a little more so as we age, but the loss of memory with dementia is different.

"It is persistent and progressive, not just occasional. It means losing a job. It means forgetting to light the gas. It means not being able to find one's way and eventually it means forgetting how to dress, how to attend to personal hygiene or even how to finish a sentence.

"Caring for someone with dementia can also be physically and emotionally exhausting and therefore carers need support and respite too," Ms Armer said.

Open Day Details:

The Broughton House Open Day for carers will be held on Tuesday, September 16 from 10am at 80 Broughton Street, Camden. Carers and family members to would like to attend should RSVP to Cathie Johanson on 4654-6123.

Media are invited to attend the open day to meet carers and speak with staff. Please let the Media and Communications Unit know you would like to come by phoning 9828-6848.

For more details on dementia, visit www.health.gov.au/dementia