

# Mobility issues for drivers with dementia

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# Contents

- Background
- Introduction
- Method
- Findings
- Conclusions



(Source: Road Safety Great Britain, N.D.)

# Background

- RACV project.
- Objectives:
  - Key road safety issues
  - Helpful communication messages
    - drivers with dementia
    - carers of drivers with dementia.

# Introduction

- Increasing number of older Australians:
  - 13.6% currently aged 65 years or over
  - this is expected to be 24% by 2056.
- Dementia:
  - central nervous system pathology
  - cognitive decline
  - behavioural changes.

# Method

- Reviewed existing resources and literature:
  - local, national, overseas
  - journal databases, internet.
- Interviews with people who:
  - specialise in dementia-related care:
    - hospitals
    - carer and disabled motoring organisations
    - Alzheimer's Australia
  - specialise in driving reviews and regulations
    - VicRoads.

# Findings

- Later diagnoses more difficult but most common.
- Early stages - curtail driving.
- Mid-later stages – cease driving because of:
  - spatial disorientation
  - poor judgement, decision making
  - Inattention.
- Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) scale (0 – 2+).

# Findings

- Signs that driving cessation is needed:
  - frequently becoming lost
  - near misses and/or crashes
  - passengers feel unsafe
  - altered emotional state.
- Substantial cost to assess driving.

# Findings

- Impacts:
  - emotional consequences of driving cessation
  - lost independence (self, partner, family, friends)
  - stressful for the entire family.
- The cessation conversation:
  - how and who should have it
  - the ‘hip-pocket nerve’.

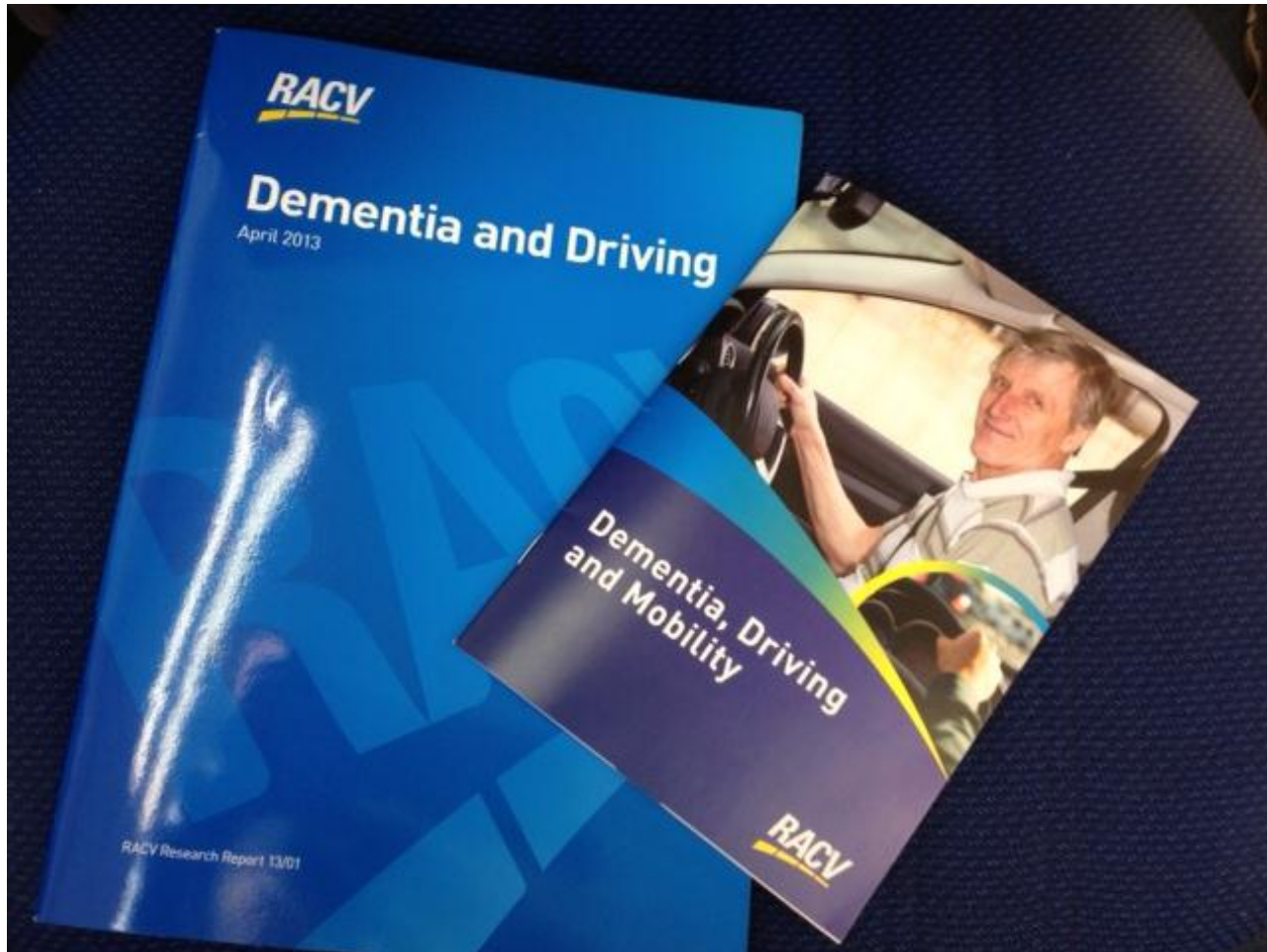


# Findings

- Needs identified:
  - individual approach
  - easy to access information
  - alternative transport options.

# Conclusions

- Eventual cessation
- Individual approach
- Support
- Progress from recommendations



# Thanks

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