



MEDIA RELEASE

DTA launches dementia storytelling competition

Dementia Training Australia has launched the 2017 National Dementia Storytelling Competition, inviting undergraduate students to explore the concept of 'salutogenesis' in dementia care.

Salutogenesis means 'sources of health' from the Latin word 'salus' (meaning health) and the Greek word 'genesis' (meaning source). Salutogenesis focusses on factors that support health and wellbeing, shifting away from a more traditional, pathogenic focus on risk and problems.

Announcing the competition on World Alzheimer's Day (21 September), DTA Executive Director Richard Fleming said the competition is an opportunity to engage students from every discipline on how they, as individual practitioners or within their profession, can contribute to caring for people with dementia.

Undergraduate students will be asked to tell a story in a medium of their choice (e.g. written word, animation, short film, video, infographic) addressing this topic: 'A salutogenic approach to caring for people living with dementia: how my discipline can support a life that is manageable, understandable and meaningful'.

The competition will open on 4 December, with entries closing on 25 February. Prizes include \$2,000 for the top two winners and subscriptions to the Australian Journal of Dementia Care.

This is the first year that the competition will take a multi-media approach. Last year, nursing student Teagan Bewick from Edith Cowan University and dental science student Danica Zhan from The University of Queensland won the top two prizes in the 2016 National Dementia Essay Competition, answering the question 'How can your discipline improve the care and wellbeing of people with dementia?'. Entries were received from 19 universities across Australia, with six students selected to share in a total prize pool worth \$7,000.

More than 17 different fields of study were represented including occupational therapy, psychology, medicine, marketing, nutrition and dietetics, pharmacy, biomedical science and design.

Entries in the 2017 competition will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Compelling storytelling in chosen media
- Demonstrated understanding of salutogenesis
- Clear interpretation of complex subject matter
- Content and context – the extent to which the story can be applied to dementia care

By opening up the competition to any medium, DTA aims to encourage entries from disciplines that have not yet been represented in this National Dementia Awareness initiative. For more information on the competition please contact dta@uow.edu.au

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