What is dementia?

You may have started asking this question because you are concerned for yourself or a loved one. So let's get started by simplifying a complex topic, into bite-sized information.

Imagine the word car. A car is a general term to describe a 4-wheeled vehicle. There are many different types of cars. For example, Holden, Toyota, Hyundai, Volvo. So now take that analogy, and relate it to dementia. Dementia is a general term that describes a group of diseases. For example, the most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's, then Vascular, Lewy Body Dementia and Frontotemporal Dementia. Each dementia will present differently and respond to different strategies. The most common symptom that is known about dementia is memory loss. However, dementia can impact many different areas of brain function. For example, emotions, the ability to calculate numbers and manage finances, orienting time and place, word searching, and many other symptoms.

If you are worried about yourself or noticing brain changes in someone else, raise it with your GP.





