

# Dementia Institute (BUDI)

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/dementia-institute](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/dementia-institute)

**Clare Cutler on behalf  
of GRIID**



**Bournemouth  
University**



# **Gateway to Rural International Initiatives in Dementia (GRIID): Developing International Rural Dementia Care Service Excellence**

**Clare Cutler, Anthea Innes, David Edvardsson, Debra  
Morgan, Marilyn Cash, Allison Cammer, Peter Birkett,  
Amit Dias**



# Aims of the presentation

- To provide an overview of the **G**ateway to **R**ural **I**nternational **I**nnovation in **D**ementia (GRIID) project
- To share research findings to date
- To discuss the idea of an online repository of information for rural care providers, academics, practitioners, educators, service commissioners and providers



# What is GRIID?



**GRIID is a team of academics from the United Kingdom, Sweden, India, Canada and Australia who have come together to tackle issues surrounding rural dementia care.**



## Aims of research

1. To review international policy about rural dementia care
2. To explore examples of rural dementia care innovations in practice





## Policy Synthesis



## Online Survey



# Methods (1) : Policy synthesis

**An online search engine using key words in combination to interrogate policy documents and guidelines**



**The search was limited to publications produced in the last ten years, written in the English language**



**A pro-forma was constructed to guide the extraction of data from the identified policy and practice guidelines**



**The search identified fifty two documents, which were included in the focused policy synthesis**



## Methods (2): Survey

**Conducted  
the survey  
using Survey  
Monkey**



**Survey  
included:  
Included 21  
multiple  
choice, scale  
response and  
open ended  
questions**



**Alzheimer's  
Disease  
International  
disseminated on  
behalf of the  
GRID team**



**The survey was  
sent to 78 ADI  
members/  
associations  
internationally**







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# Findings (1) : Policy synthesis

**There is an increase in policy interest in dementia**

**Several countries have a dementia policy, e.g., England, Scotland, France, Norway and Australia**

**There is literature about rural service provision generally that could be applied to dementia**

**Half the documents reviewed mentioned rurality but it did not feature strongly**

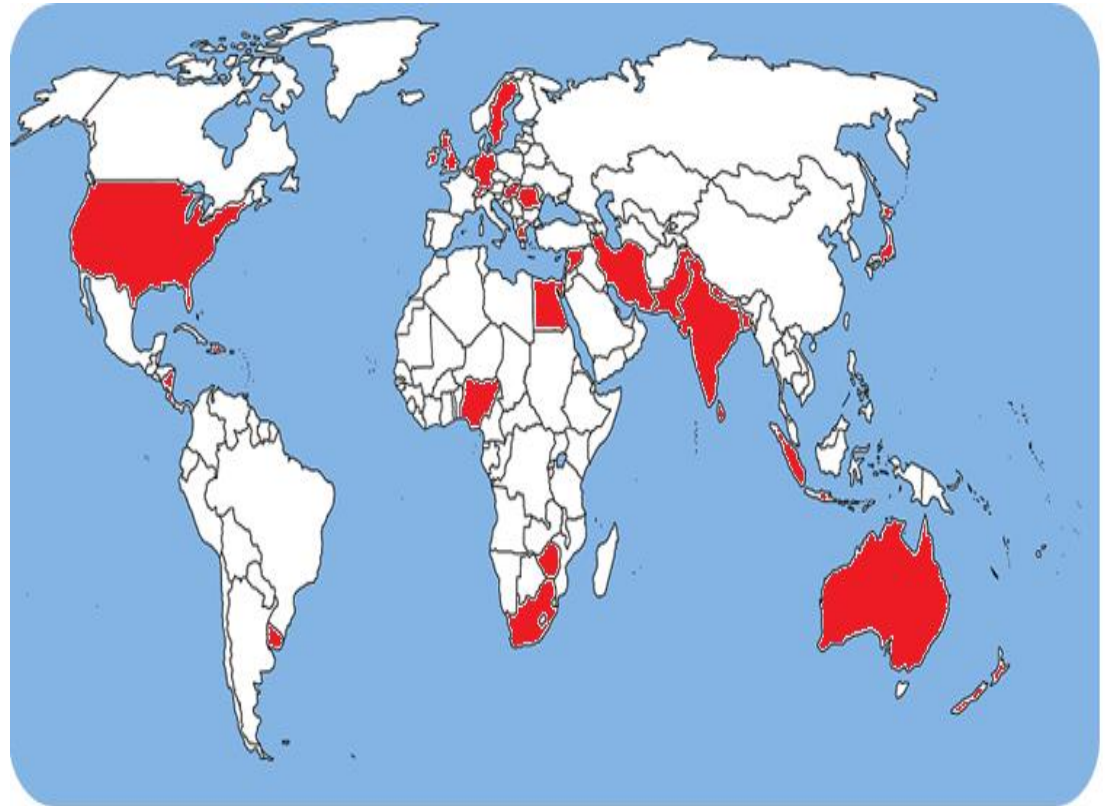
**Common themes from the policy literature:**

- Need for improved co-ordination services
- Need for more research
- Need to increase awareness and reduce stigma
- Attention is needed across the whole spectrum of care.



# Response rate to survey

- 90% response rate
- Responses received across Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australasia
- Responses came from people working within public, private and voluntary sectors



## Findings (2): Survey

**76%** of respondents say that rurality is an important issue for service provision in their country

**56%** of respondents are unaware of a dementia strategy/plan in their country

**47%** of respondents are unaware of whether or not the strategy/plan mentions rurality

**75%** of respondents say that priority has **NOT** been given to rural dementia care in their country



## Findings (2): Survey

**89%** of respondents agree that rural dementia services experience greater challenges than urban services

**80%** of respondents agree that connecting rural services through a web platform can improve service *design*

**69%** of respondents agree that connecting rural services through a web platform can improve service *delivery*

**67%** of respondents agree that connecting rural services through an IT infrastructure is possible in their region



# Reported examples of rural innovation

- Respite services
- Providing service information
- Increasing awareness and understanding



## Implication of findings

**78%** of respondents agree  
that connecting rural  
services through a web  
platform can improve the  
evidence base of services



## Next Steps: What would a rural dementia care website offer?

- An international evidence base of good practice, new ideas and lessons from experience
- Peer to peer inspiration
- Networking opportunities
- Baseline to compare experiences, ideas and existing services
- Access to evidence for services across countries



- Building the website





# Conclusion

- The policy synthesis highlights the lack of policy attention to rurality **and** dementia
- **Our survey shows that:**
  1. People are concerned about dementia care in remote and rural areas
  2. People are aware of examples of service innovation
  3. That whilst people are aware of examples of service innovation they are also aware of the lack of security and future continuation of services due to time limited funding
- **What needs to be addressed?**

Rurality needs a lot more attention and we hope that the website will provide a resource and a way of supporting those working in the field of rural dementia care.



**Thank you for**  
**listening**

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