**Position Description HALT Champion**

**Introduction to HALT**

The Halting Antipsychotics in Long-Term care (HALT) project aims to test a model for deprescribing in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) that will reduce the use of antipsychotics, without an associated rise in problem behaviours or alternative prescriptions. To achieve this aim, the HALT Project will bring together a dynamic, multidisciplinary team of clinical and academic experts in psychogeriatrics, pharmacology, nursing and aged care.

The HALT project will involve identifying residents that may benefit from deprescribing via a medication audit and approaching those residents and their families to be a part of HALT. This project will run over a period of approximately 14 months from identification of eligible residents through to 12 month follow up.

Alongside the deprescribing intervention will be the HALT education and training component of the project. For this part of the project to be successful we need a HALT Champion at each participating RACF to monitor progress of participants as well as to drive change and ensure implementation of new skills and knowledge from the training program.

Training of the HALT Champion will involve a 3-day workshop run by Professor Lynn Chenoweth and managers will be encouraged to attend also. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about person centred care and non-pharmacological approaches to behaviour management from an expert in the field. Strategies for ongoing training to be facilitated by the HALT Champion will be developed at the workshop. This “train the trainer” approach has been proven effective in up skilling care workers and means that all staff at participating RACFs will benefit from involvement in the HALT project.

**HALT Champion characteristics**

The HALT Champion will:

* Be a passionate, committed care worker with a great interest in providing quality, person-centred care to residents
* Have great attention to detail and take pride in their work
* Have excellent organisational skills and the ability and confidence to be a leader in their workplace
* Have an understanding of and/or be willing to learn about principles of person-centred care, behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia and non-pharmacological strategies to assist residents’ behaviours
* Be willing to devote the time needed to undertake all tasks outlined below
* Be committed to the project for its duration
* Have excellent communication skills and work well in a team

**HALT Champion duties**

The HALT Champion will have many responsibilities through the different stages of the project. These include:

* De-identifying resident data for medication audit
* Liaising with residents and families, the community pharmacist, residents’ GPs and HALT project personnel
* Assisting with recruitment of eligible residents to the study
* Participating in HALT training workshops and tutorials
* Coordinating tutorials for care staff within the RACF
* Monitoring progress of participating residents over the course of the study
* Weekly ‘check-in’ with the HALT coordinator
* Ensuring the HALT Protocol is adhered to and any issues are immediately communicated to the HALT coordinator

**Benefits of being a HALT Champion**

Finding ways to effectively reduce the use of antipsychotic medications in residential care without an increase in problem behaviours or use of substitute medicines is of great importance and very topical. As a HALT Champion you will:

* Be participating in a ground breaking study alongside a team of academic leaders in dementia care research
* have the opportunity to be trained by experts in the field of behaviour management and add these skills and knowledge to your own resume

The position of HALT Champion is an important one that requires commitment and a genuine interest in the research being undertaken. The HALT Champion will play an integral role in providing HALT training to other care staff and ensuring the implementation of training into care practices.