

Leading  
Healthcare  
Providers

Skillnet

# Certificate in Dementia Care

QQI Level 5 Supplemental Award

Blended Programme



[lhpskillnet.ie](http://lhpskillnet.ie)

# Introducing the Certificate in Dementia Care Programme

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According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is estimated that 139 million people globally will be living with dementia by 2050. In Ireland, dementia is a growing phenomenon as part of the ageing population. Approximately 65,000 people in Ireland are living with dementia.

The Irish National Dementia Strategy states that all staff caring for or interacting with people in adult services across all care settings should receive on-going training to ensure that they have the necessary skills, including communication skills, and competencies to provide high quality, person-centred care and support.

Competence in dementia care is a key requirement for all healthcare providers working in this area and with Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) at the frontline in all settings there is an urgent need for enhanced knowledge and skills at this level in order to ensure that appropriate dementia care is delivered across acute care, long term residential care, nursing homes and home care.

## WHO IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR?

The target students are HCAs working in the health and social care sector in Ireland across all settings (i.e. acute, residential, nursing home or home care settings) who hold a minimum QQI Level 5 healthcare or related major awards (Healthcare Support, Health Services Skills, Nursing Studies, Community Care, Applied Social Studies).

The programme will also be open to other healthcare professionals working in the area of dementia care (for example nurses, occupational therapists, doctors, Speech and Language Therapist (SALT), and physiotherapists).

The programme is designed for those who wish to enhance their skills and deepen their understanding of the specialist area of dementia care with a view to career advancement and enhancing the level of care they provide to their clients and service users.

# Programme Aim

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The aim of the programme is to equip the student with the knowledge, skills and competence to provide person-centred holistic care and support for a person living with dementia, and their family.

Graduates will have a greater understanding of dementia and associated conditions which will enable them to become holistic, person-centred, reflective healthcare workers.



## LEARN FROM REAL LIVED EXPERIENCES

True to its participatory design, learners will learn from the real lived experiences of people with a diagnosis of dementia, their families, and providers of contemporary services.

## ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT FROM EXPERT TUTORS

Learners interact with highly experienced tutors in the field of dementia care, making learning stimulating and challenging. Students will be afforded one-to-one support through virtual meetings and phone calls as required throughout the programme.

## BLENDED DELIVERY

The design of the programme facilitates a flexible yet structured forum to study.

The programme is delivered through the Leading Healthcare Providers Skillnet Moodle eLearning platform. This allows students to complete much of the programme at a time of their choosing.

Each week, tutors will provide learners with study materials, activities, and tasks. These can take a variety of forms, such as videos, discussion forums, quizzes and questionnaires.

Scheduled live tutorials will take place weekly.

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# Programme Outline

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The programme, delivered over nine weeks, consists of six units. The programme will commence with a live induction session where the students will be introduced to their tutor and fellow students. The tutor will outline the programme's aims and objectives along with the assessment requirements. Subsequently, one unit is delivered per week with a study week mid-programme. Each unit contains a mix of self-directed learning activities, pre-recorded tutorials and a live tutorial. In the final week, students will undergo a skills assessment and receive one-to-one feedback.

## THE SIX UNITS

- Understanding Dementia (Foundations & Core Principles)
- Delirium and Frailty & Dementia
- Reflective Practice and Non-Cognitive Symptoms of Dementia (NCSD)
- Understanding the Lived Experiences of People with Dementia
- Person-Centred Care & Personhood
- Communication Theory and Skill for Dementia Care Practice

## ENTRY CRITERIA

Learners on this programme must meet the following criteria:

- Graduates of minimum QQI Level 5 Major Award\* in health or social care programme or cognate discipline or equivalent healthcare qualification
- Minimum of 6x months clinical experience of working with people with dementia
- Be able to attend all timetabled classes and complete the specified hours of self-directed learning (student commitment is approximately 6-8 hours per week)
- Be in a position to apply the knowledge and practice the skills in an appropriate setting for the duration of the programme
- Possess necessary computer skills to work in a blended learning environment

\*We are engaging with QQI to explore a recognition of prior learning (RPL) route for persons who have not completed the major award in full. We will make members aware if and when this is possible.

## ASSESSMENT

Learners will be assessed as below:

1. Assignment = 30%
2. Skills Assessment = 40%
3. Learner Record = 30%

## CERTIFICATION

Learners who successfully complete the programme will be awarded a Certificate in Dementia Care from QQI (Level 5, Supplemental Award).

## Programme Lead and Tutor

### Dr. Michael Brennan

PhD, MA, M Ed, RPN, RNT,  
H Dip in Addiction Studies,  
Dip Social Studies

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Dr. Michael Brennan has worked in healthcare since 1992 having registered as a mental health nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland home. Michael started in a healthcare educational role in 2003 on achieving a Master of Science in Education. He completed a Doctorate in Philosophy in 2012, from Trinity College Dublin. In his career to date, he has published and presented at several conferences both nationally and internationally. Michael is Programme Coordinator for a Masters/Postgraduate Diploma in Dementia & Mental Health in Trinity College since 2003.

Since 2017, Michael has been on the panel of tutors with LHP Skillnet. This role involves coordination, teaching, assessment, supporting learners both academically and pastorally, administration, evaluation, and ongoing programme development. Michael's philosophy on education is that it must have real meaning for students. He believes that learning should be about personal development and growth and not just about the acquisition of knowledge. Through his teaching, he facilitates students to develop the skills and the confidence to use their learning to impact their practice. This type of learning is a skill for life and not just for the purpose of gaining a qualification to practice.

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Duration: 9 Weeks part-time

Delivery: Blended delivery via Moodle and MS Teams

Programme Dates: Visit [www.lhpskillnet.ie](http://www.lhpskillnet.ie) for upcoming programme dates

Price: LHP Skillnet Member €150, Non-Member €250

**Please contact [office@lhpskillnet.ie](mailto:office@lhpskillnet.ie) for further details**

## About LHP Skillnet

Leading Healthcare Providers (LHP) Skillnet is a not-for-profit Skillnet Business Network co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Of the over 70 Skillnet Business Networks, we are the only one dedicated exclusively to supporting the private healthcare sector with the provision of subsidised education and training. Whether you want a specific programme or you simply have a rough idea of the training you need, you can turn to us.

# Leading Healthcare Providers

Skillnet,

T: +353 1 218 7698  
E: [office@lhpskillnet.ie](mailto:office@lhpskillnet.ie)  
W: [www.lhpskillnet.ie](http://www.lhpskillnet.ie)

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Skillnet,  
IRELAND



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