

## REDUCING INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ANTIPSYCHOTICS in people with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)



**Antipsychotics are medicines that can reduce symptoms of psychosis but have limited benefit for BPSD**

### Antipsychotics are overused for BPSD



Use of antipsychotics in Australia is **high** for BPSD in all settings



Around **1 in 5** residents in Australian aged care homes are prescribed at least one antipsychotic medicine



Guidelines recommend that antipsychotics **should not be used** as first-line treatment for BPSD

## Inappropriate use of antipsychotics is a problem



For every **five** people with dementia given an antipsychotic, **only one will benefit**



Antipsychotics can cause harm and **increase the risk** of stroke, pneumonia and fractures



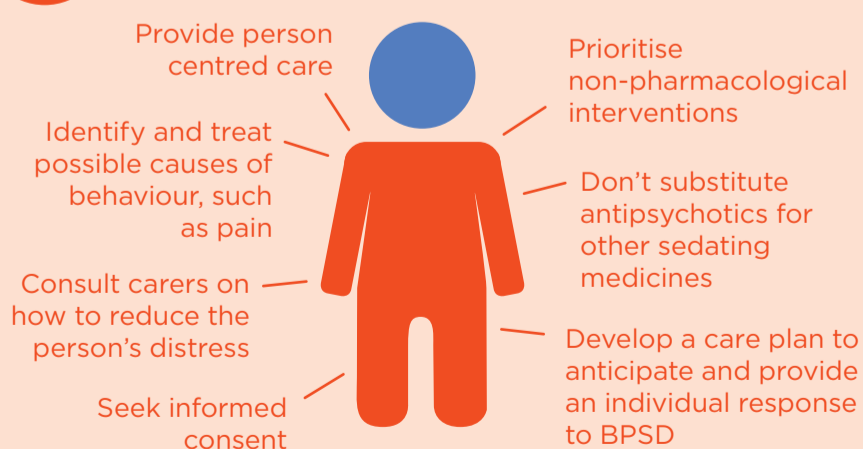
They are often used for **too long**, and without proper consent or monitoring



**Only one antipsychotic (risperidone) is approved for BPSD** on the PBS, and only to be used:

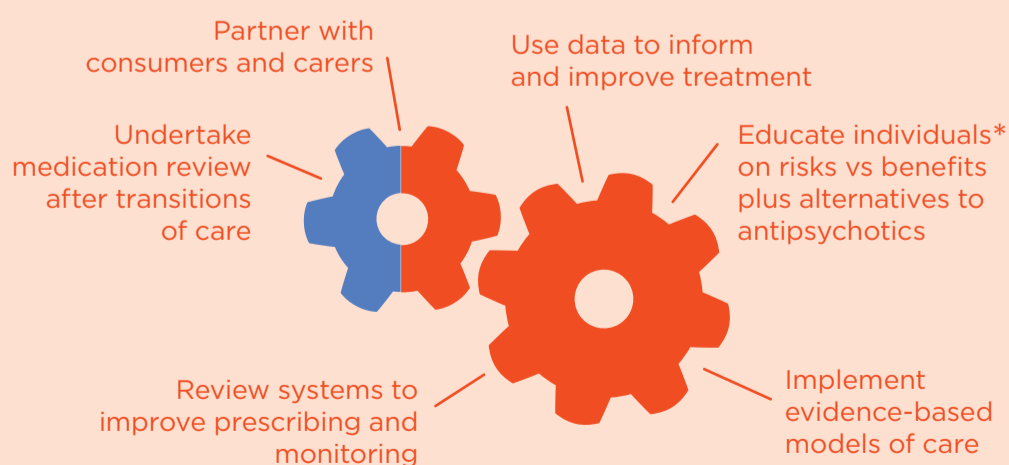
- on authority script for 12 weeks
- for dementia of Alzheimer's type with psychosis and aggression, and
- after non-pharmacological interventions have failed.

## We can reduce inappropriate use



### For individuals

\*Prescribers, healthcare managers and workforce, consumers and carers



### At organisational and systems level