



**Evergreen Certified Dementia Care Specialist (ECDCS) Certification Standards**  
Application Standards for Practicing Professionals in Australia and New Zealand

**1.0 Professional Standards**

1.1 Evergreen Certified Dementia Care Specialist (ECDCS) Certification is designed for professionals who provide care to patients and clients diagnosed with dementia and have specialized training in the care of these patients.

Nationally registered, credentialed, or member of the association noted:

- Registered Psychologist
  - Hold a general designation and/or with endorsement that aligns with the standards set by the Psychology Board of Australia
  - Hold a registration with New Zealand Psychologists Board AND hold a practising certification
- Registered Counsellor
  - Be a Level 2, 3 or 4 member of the Australian Counselling Association (ACA)
  - Be a full member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors
  - Be a Clinical member of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA)
- Social Worker
  - Be a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers
  - Hold a Practising Certificate with the Social Workers Registration Board
- Psychiatrist
  - Be accredited by the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- Credentialed mental health nurse
- Registered nurse practitioner
- Advanced practice nurse
- Doctor of Medicine
  - Hold a General or Specialist registration with the Medical Board of Australia
  - Hold a practising certificate and be registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand
- Occupational Therapist
  - Hold a registration with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
  - Hold a registration with the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand
- Certified Practising Speech Pathologist
  - Hold full registration with Speech Pathology Australia
- Speech Language Therapist
  - Registered member of the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA)

For all professions: Provisional or student registration does not meet the standards for Certification.

Other applicants: Registered or credentialed professionals whose professional scope of practice allows them to diagnose and provide clinical mental health treatment plans for mental health disorders AND have met the registration or credentialing requirements in Australia or New Zealand are welcome to apply. If you are unsure whether your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email a copy of your educational background, professional scope of practice, membership or registration and CV to [info@evergreencertifications.com](mailto:info@evergreencertifications.com)

1.2 By applying for Certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics, available at [www.evergreencertifications.com/codeofethics](http://www.evergreencertifications.com/codeofethics)

## **2.0 Educational Standards**

2.1 The applicant must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 CPD hours of training):

- An understanding of dementia types, cognitive differences and prognosis for:
  - Alzheimer's Type Dementia
  - Vascular Type Dementia
  - Lewy Body Dementia
  - Frontotemporal Dementia
  - Parkinson's Dementia
  - Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus
- An understanding of the stages of dementia
- Ability to differentiate between mild cognitive impairment, dementia and normal aging
- Ability to provide a synopsis of the cognitive assessment tools used to identify dementia in early and late stages
- An understanding of behavioral interventions that address:
  - Sun downing, combativeness and aggression
  - Wandering, paranoia, hallucinations and delusions
  - Depression, anxiety and repetitive behaviors
  - Intimacy and sexuality
  - Personal hygiene and ADL's
- Ability to effectively provide psychoeducation to patients, family and/or caregivers
- An understanding of communication strategies that encourage compliance and therapy participation, including non-verbal communication strategies and strategies to avoid arguments
- A general understanding of psychopharmacology and nutrition as it relates to dementia
- An understanding ethical and cultural issues related to dementia, including end of life considerations, abuse reporting and community resources

2.2 Suitable education sources are approved professional development trainings as documented by certificates of completion from the accredited training organization.

Evergreen Certifications will accept courses that have been completed within 3 years of initial application for Certification.

## **3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility**

1. A copy of the applicant's professional registration, credential, or membership
2. Copies of completion of training as outlined in the Educational Standards
3. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

*Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.*

## **4.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification**

To maintain Certification, a renewal is required. The steps to apply for a 1-year renewal are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your professional registration, credential, or membership as well as a completion certificate for six (6) CPD hours of Alzheimer's and/or dementia care-focused training to [info@evergreencertifications.com](mailto:info@evergreencertifications.com)
2. Payment of renewal application fee

You can also apply for renewal for 2 or 3 years. Follow the process above, submitting twelve (12) CPD hours of training for a 2-year renewal, and eighteen (18) CPD hours of training for a 3-year renewal.

Renewal training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or renewed. Renewals are calculated from the date that your Certification was issued.

*If you allow your Certification to lapse for more than 3 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your Certification and instead can reapply for Certification.*