

# How Does Young-Onset Dementia Impact Career?

Career-related feelings and needs change and evolve

Participants felt it was important that others treated them "the same", whilst also recognising how they may need to live and work differently to manage their symptoms. Flexibility is important as feelings and needs related to dementia aren't fixed and do change.

Peers support career continuance

Peers were defined broadly, and understood to be those sharing an equal status with participants. Peers can be important source of encouragement and enablers of career for women living with young-onset dementia.

For my PhD research, I interviewed 12 women living with young-onset dementia about their careers. I have developed four key findings, illustrated here through four pictures...

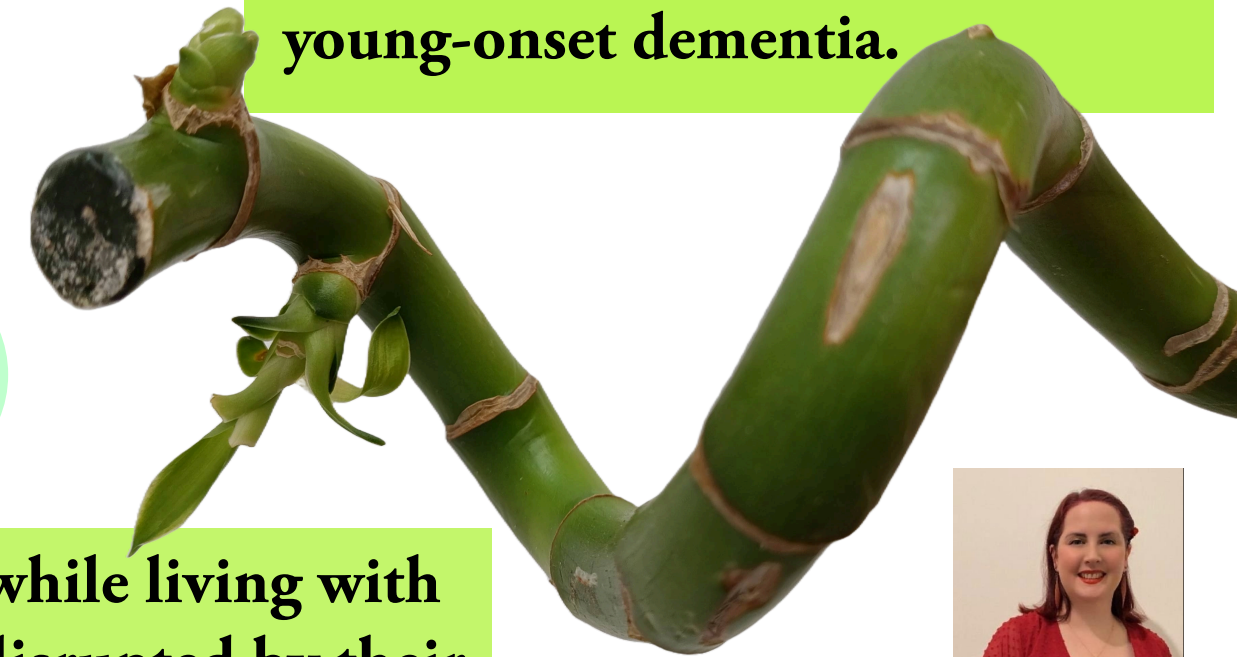
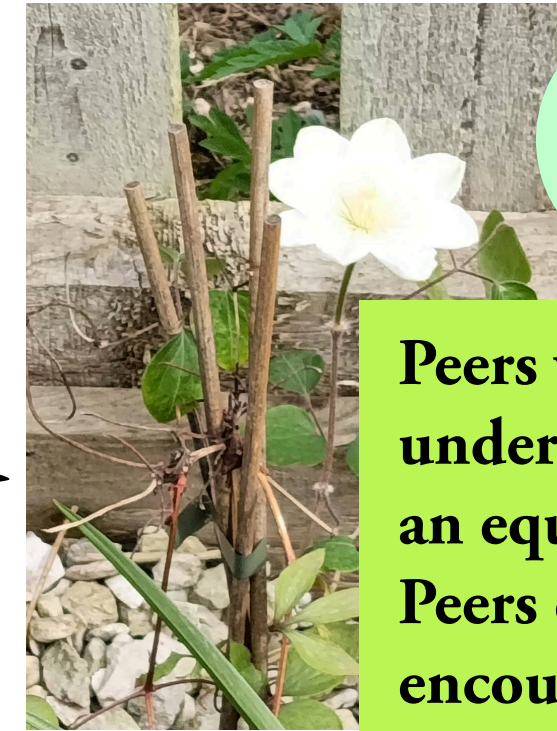
Careers influence support provision

Support that incorporates familiar career experiences can be beneficial, supporting growth and new learning alongside opportunities to meet and engage with others.



Careers continue, but are not continuous

Participants continued to have careers while living with dementia, but these were significantly disrupted by their diagnosis. Losing their paid employment, for example, had been very difficult. Careers did not continue as they had before, but developed new shoots and branches.



Rachel Allen  
PhD Student, Alzheimer Scotland Centre  
for Policy and Practice, UWS  
rachel.allen@uws.ac.uk