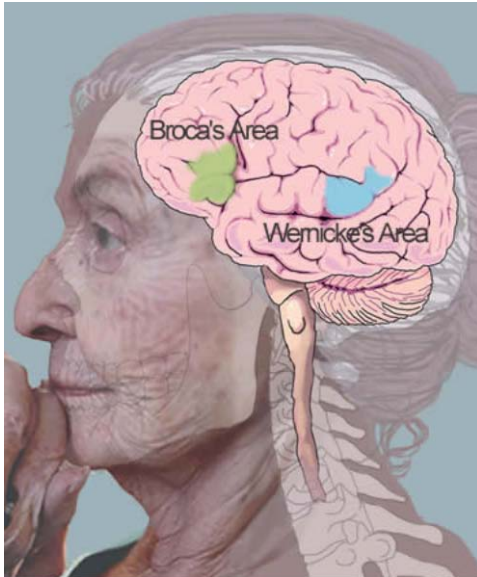


The 7 A's of Dementia

3. Aphasia: Loss of Language



Deficits:

- Two types:
 - Expressive aphasia (Broca's area)
 - Receptive aphasia (Wernicke's area)
- A person with *expressive aphasia* may be able to comprehend speech, but is unable to express him or herself.
- A person with *receptive aphasia* may be able to express him or herself, but cannot understand what is being said.
- Despite impairment in the person's expressive and receptive language functions, he or she often remains responsive to non-verbal communications of others (e.g. facial expressions and gestures).

Associated Behaviours:

- Difficulty following conversations, especially more than one
- Social withdrawal
- Word substitution or using the wrong word which leads to inappropriate statements or requests
- Reversion to first language (even if not used for number of years).

Effective Care Strategies for Aphasia:

- Suspect the presence of expressive and receptive aphasia
- Maintain a high index of suspicion for pain, discomfort, or other symptoms that the individual may not be able to express
- Use positive, supportive non-verbal communication that conveys calmness, reassurance and kindness, e.g. facial expressions, body postures, tone of voice, etc.