

Training Resource Material

Mental Health Branch – October 2004

Case Study 3 **Aged Psychiatry** **Mrs. Nguyen**

Mrs Nguyen is a 67 year old woman who lives with her elderly husband. In the last year her behaviour has become increasingly bizarre, she has lost weight and sleeps poorly. Her GP prescribed psychotropic medication 2 months ago and, according to family, she improved during the one month she agreed to take the medication.

She had a mild heart attack 2 years ago and her compliance with this treatment has also recently become erratic and she becomes verbally abusive towards her only daughter when she tries to ensure her mother is taking her medication.

A week ago Mrs Nguyen started taking a knife to bed with her because she was convinced someone planned to murder her in her sleep and Mr Nguyen has found this very frightening and he too has hardly slept over the last week.

When Mrs Nguyen went missing from home this morning her daughter found her still in her night wear at the local train station, talking to herself and saying she needed to stop the trains. Her daughter coaxed her into coming home with her and called the local mental health service who arranged an urgent home based assessment.