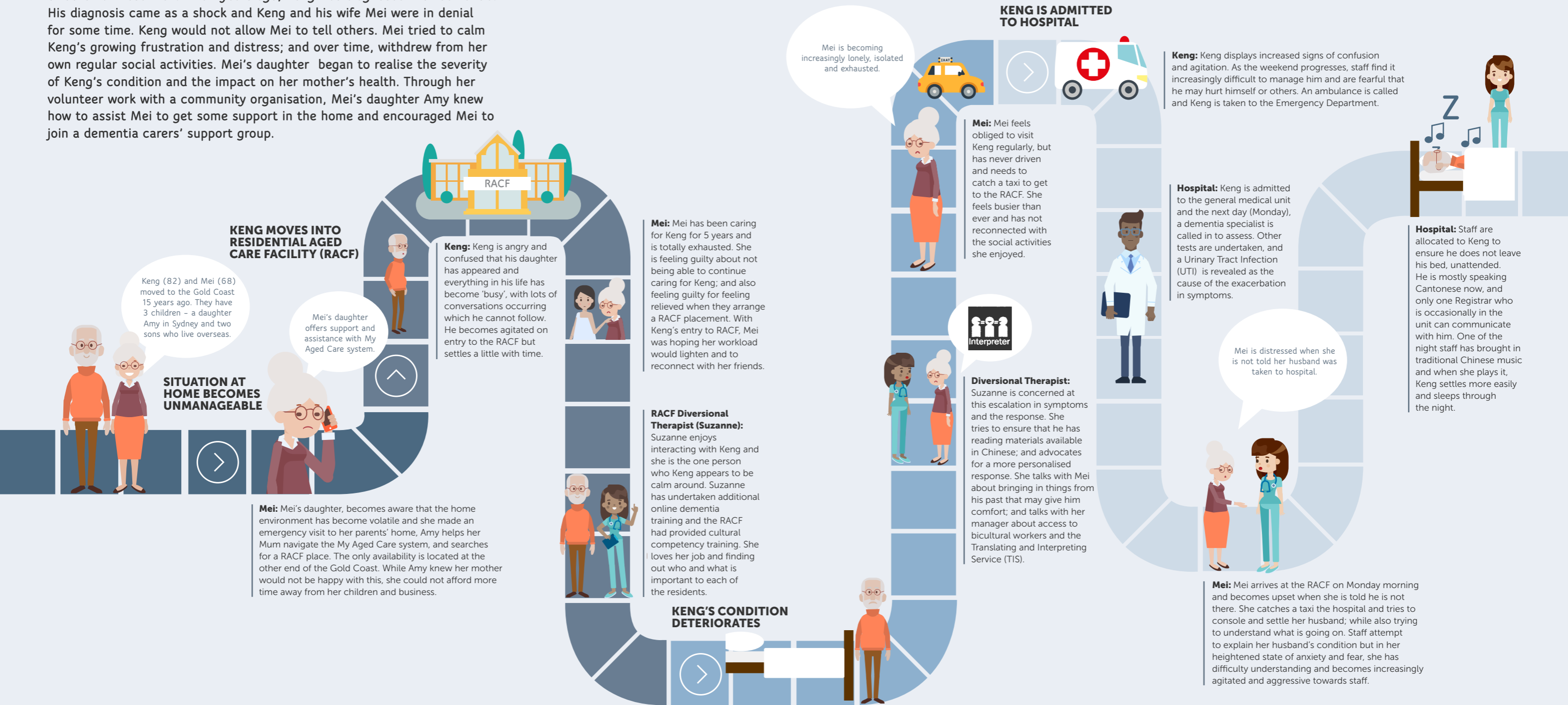


Keng's journey

Keng's hobbies include reading, gardening and meeting weekly with a group of other Chinese men. A few years ago, Keng was diagnosed with dementia. His diagnosis came as a shock and Keng and his wife Mei were in denial for some time. Keng would not allow Mei to tell others. Mei tried to calm Keng's growing frustration and distress; and over time, withdrew from her own regular social activities. Mei's daughter began to realise the severity of Keng's condition and the impact on her mother's health. Through her volunteer work with a community organisation, Mei's daughter Amy knew how to assist Mei to get some support in the home and encouraged Mei to join a dementia carers' support group.



Key themes:

- Community knowledge about aged care and support available in the home improves service identification and navigation
- Important life decisions often made in made in times of emergency and distress
- Limited family supports can impact timely identification of issues and responses
- High emotional and physical stress for carer
- Appropriate recruitment of RACF staff e.g. Staff that are able to provide support across a range of health and social conditions including dementia and people from diverse backgrounds
- Timely comprehensive medical assessment in the RACF in response to escalating conditions
- Recognition of a person's social, cultural, spiritual and emotional needs

Keng: Keng moves to a more 'secure' wing of the RACF but feels trapped and becomes increasingly agitated as he cannot find his way 'home'. He frequently reverts to his first language of Cantonese.