



Thursday 22 August 2019

## **Dementia peak body welcomes funding to support carers**

Dementia Australia has welcomed an announcement by the federal government to better support Australia's 2.7 million carers.

Ten not-for-profit organisations will receive \$493 million over five years to establish a new network of 16 Carer Gateway service providers.

Dementia Australia is proud to have been named a consortia partner of successful Carer Gateway-led organisations Carers Association of SA and Wellways Australia.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said that carers are crucial in supporting people living with dementia to live well and remain engaged in the activities that are important to them. Support for carers is essential especially as dementia prevalence rates continue to rise.

"Carers provide vital assistance to people living with dementia to stay connected to their communities and remain in their own homes for as long as possible," Ms McCabe said.

"There are an estimated 447,000 people living with dementia in Australia and without a medical breakthrough this number is projected to increase to 1.1 million by 2058.

"Carers form a vital component of our overall health care infrastructure and provide an integral role in the care of vulnerable Australians, with their caring roles being valued at \$60.3 billion annually – more than \$1 billion per week.

"Dementia Australia already provides a number of essential resources and support services for carers of people living with dementia.

"We look forward to working closely with the federal government and the network of service providers to continue our work in supporting carers."

Dementia Australia is the national peak body and charity for people, of all ages, living with all forms of dementia, their families and carers. It provides advocacy, support services, education and information. An estimated 447,000 people have dementia in Australia. This number is projected to reach almost 1.1 million by 2058. Dementia Australia is the new voice of Alzheimer's Australia. Dementia Australia's services are supported by the Australian Government.

**National Dementia Helpline 1800 100 500**

**Interpreter service available**

(The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)

**Dementia is a National Health Priority Area**

[www.dementia.org.au](http://www.dementia.org.au)

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**Media contacts:** Stephanie Watkins - Media and Communications Advisor - 0423 936 371 - [Stephanie.Watkins@dementia.org.au](mailto:Stephanie.Watkins@dementia.org.au)

When talking or writing about dementia please refer to [Dementia Language Guidelines](#).