

Friday 3 May 2019

Second leading cause of death of Australians largely ignored

Dementia Australia applauds both the governments' and the opposition's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians as outlined in recent policy announcements.

Maree McCabe, CEO Dementia Australia said the health focus so far in the federal election campaign is to be commended yet there is a glaring gap in the rhetoric and the needs of close to half a million people living with dementia have been largely ignored.

"The 447,000 Australians living with dementia, their families and carers should not have to wait until April 2020 when the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety hands down its recommendations when urgent action is required now to meet their needs," Ms McCabe said.

"Twelve months is a long time for someone to be waiting to know more when you have a progressive, degenerative brain disease for which there is no cure.

"The federal election campaign presents the perfect opportunity for all parties and candidates to demonstrate their commitment to people living with dementia now.

"Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia and the leading cause of death for women.

"There are 1.5 million people in this country who care and provide support for people who are living with dementia and the number is increasing.

"It is estimated that someone is developing dementia every three seconds across the globe.

"Dementia Australia calls on both the government and the opposition to put dementia on the public agenda now – as a priority, to create an inclusive future where all people impacted by dementia receive the care and support that they need and deserve."

Dementia Australia's 2019 Federal Election Manifesto can be downloaded at <https://www.dementia.org.au/files/documents/2019-DA-Federal-Election-Manifesto.pdf> and the peak body's election call to action to all parties and candidates can be found at <https://www.dementia.org.au/media-releases>.

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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

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Media contacts: Fiona Wade, fiona.wade@dementia.org.au | 0407 019 430, Christine Bolt, christine.bolt@dementia.org.au | 0400 004 553 . When talking or writing about dementia please refer to Dementia-Friendly Language Guideline