

DEMENTIA

Key facts and statistics

Australian statistics

- Dementia is the second leading cause of death of Australians contributing to 5.4% of all deaths in males and 10.6% of all deaths in females each year¹
- In 2016 dementia became the leading cause of death among Australian females, surpassing heart disease which has been the leading cause of death for both males and females since the early 20th century¹. Females account for 64.4% of all dementia related deaths²
- In 2018, there is an estimated 436,366 Australians living with dementia³
- Without a medical breakthrough, the number of people with dementia is expected to increase to an estimated 589,807 by 2028 and 1,076,129 by 2058³
- Currently, an estimated 250 people are joining the population with dementia each day. The number of new cases of dementia is expected to increase to an estimated 318 people per day by 2025 and more than 650 people per day by 2056²
- Three in 10 people over the age of 85 and almost one in 10 people over 65 have dementia²
- In 2018, there is an estimated 26,443 people with younger onset dementia, expected to rise to 29,375 people by 2025 and 42,252 people by 2056²
- An average of 36 people died per day where dementia was the underlying cause of death in 2016. Of the 13,126 people that lost their lives, 8,447 were female¹

The impact of dementia in Australia

- In 2018, dementia is estimated to cost Australia more than \$15 billion. By 2025, the total cost of dementia is predicted to increase to more than \$18.7 billion in today's dollars, and by 2056, to more than \$36.8 billion²
- Dementia is the single greatest cause of disability in older Australians (aged 65 years or older) and the third leading cause of disability burden overall⁴
- People with dementia account for 52% of all residents in residential aged care facilities²

Research funding

- In 2015, the Federal Government provided an additional \$200 million for dementia research over five years, significantly boosting funding for Australia's dementia research sector to more than \$60 million per annum
- The Federal Government established the National Health and Medical Research Council's National Institute of Dementia Research to ensure research in dementia is coordinated, funded and communicated
- One of the pressing issues is to build capacity in the dementia research sector by supporting students and early career dementia researchers. The [Dementia Australia Research Foundation](#), supported by donations from the public, plays a major role in this effort and funds a number of new and early career researchers through scholarships and project grants

International statistics

- Dementia affects almost 50 million people worldwide, which is predicted to increase to 131.5 million people by 2050⁵
- Every three seconds someone in the world develops dementia⁵
- Two out of three people globally believe there is little or no understanding of dementia in their countries⁵
- The total estimated worldwide costs of dementia were US\$818 billion in 2015⁶
- If dementia were a country, it would be the world's 18th largest economy⁶

What is dementia?

Dementia is the term used to describe the symptoms of a large group of illnesses which cause a progressive decline in a person's functioning. It is a broad term used to describe a loss of memory, intellect, rationality, social skills and physical functioning. There are many types of dementia including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia and Lewy body disease. Dementia can happen to anybody, but it is more common after the age of 65.

Dementia Australia is the national peak body for people, of all ages, living with all forms of dementia, their families and carers. It provides advocacy, support services, education and information.

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017) *Causes of Death, Australia, 2016* (cat. no. 3303.0)

2 The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling NATSEM (2016) *Economic Cost of Dementia in Australia 2016-2056*

3 Dementia Australia (2018). Dementia Prevalence Data 2018-2058, commissioned research undertaken by NATSEM, University of Canberra.

4 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012) *Dementia in Australia*

5 Alzheimer's Disease International <https://www.alz.co.uk/about-dementia>

6 Alzheimer's Disease International (2015) *World Alzheimer Report 2015: The Global Impact of Dementia - an Analysis of Prevalence, Incidence, Cost and Trends*