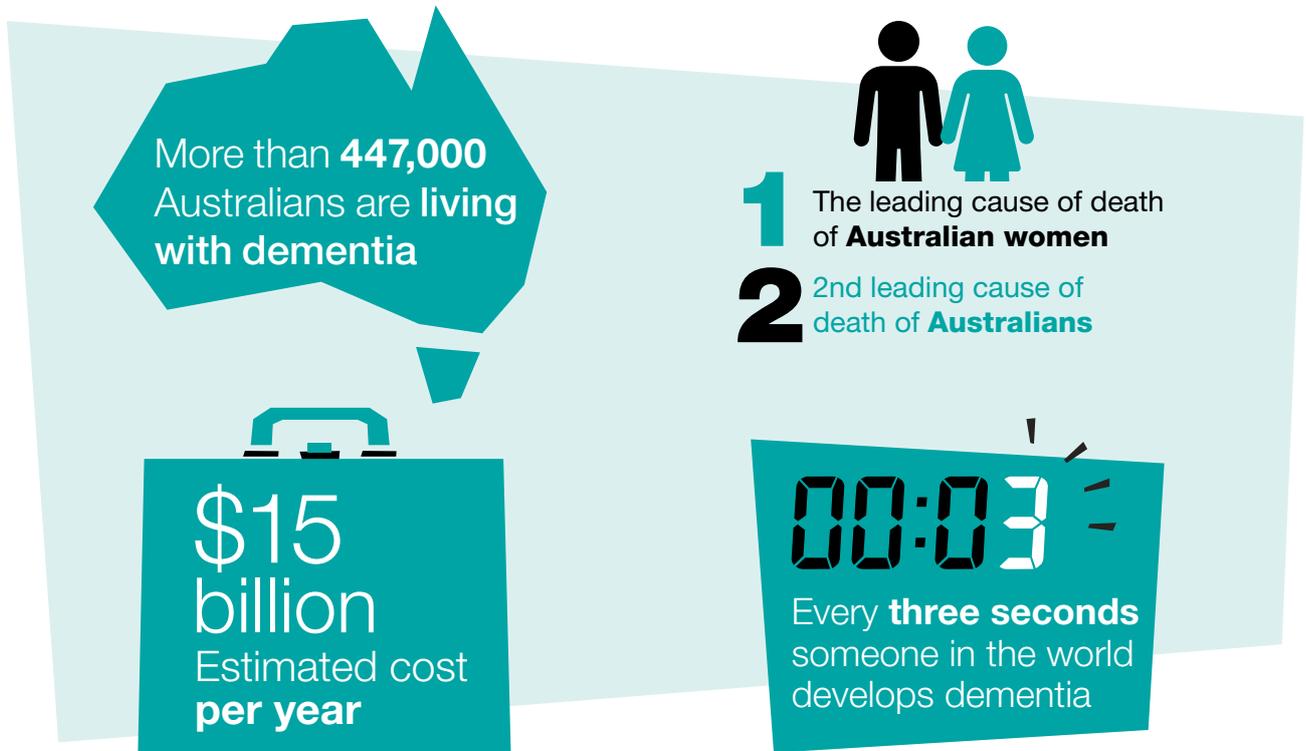


# 2019 Federal Election Manifesto



# What is dementia?

Dementia describes a collection of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. It is not one specific disease. Dementia affects thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday tasks. Brain function is affected enough to impact the person's normal social or working life.



## Designing a new future 2018–2023

**Creating sustainable change that tackles the biggest issues facing people with dementia**

After rigorous consultation across Australia's diverse communities, Dementia Australia identified three priority areas which will ensure that real, system-wide transformation is achieved.



# Roadmaps

To create an inclusive future where all people impacted by dementia receive the care and support that they need and deserve, Dementia Australia needs your commitment to achieve the following:

1

Access to timely diagnosis and support for all people living with dementia

## How will we get there?

- Identify the barriers to seeking a diagnosis.
- Develop clear referral pathways to services to bring consistency to how services are accessed.
- Establish a dementia care navigator scheme, to assist people living with dementia, their carers and families navigate aged care, health, support and disability services.

## What will success look like?

- People with dementia are able to confidently exercise choice in their lives, and direct their own care and support.
- Easier access to services and supports, and most importantly, an ability to live well with dementia.

2

Quality of dementia care

## How will we get there?

- To develop a 'gold standard' of dementia care, that guides best practice across Australia.
- Establish 1,000 dementia practice leaders; experts who can drive improvements to dementia education across the country.
- Develop new and innovative dementia learning programs that pave the way for improved dementia education.

## What will success look like?

- High quality dementia care embedded in practice across Australia.
- Increased dementia knowledge and confidence, including standardised minimum dementia education.
- Dementia practice is an attractive career pathway, that inspires current and future workforces.

3

Reduce discrimination

## How will we get there?

- Establishing baseline measures for discrimination so attitude change can be measured effectively.
- Create a movement of change that calls communities to shift their attitudes in relation to dementia.
- Expanding the reach of dementia friendly communities and the dementia friends program.

## What will success look like?

- Awareness, understanding and positive attitudes towards people living with dementia.
- People living with dementia are empowered to engage in their local community, with increased opportunities to participate and be socially included.

# The voices of people living with dementia

“ Quality care is more than good symptoms’ control and emotional support. It’s recognising and meeting the needs of the person living with dementia. It is about assisting residents to live well and maintain self-determination, relationships and social connections. It is also about supporting the carer. ”

*Danijela Hlis, Dementia Advocate, daughter and former care partner*

“ When you encounter a person with dementia, whether it’s early, middle or late in the course of the condition, remember that they’re foremost an individual with a unique history, a family and a lifetime of accomplishments. ”

*Jenny Henderson, Dementia Advocate, daughter and former care partner*

“ The benefits of an early diagnosis mean that people can prepare for what might happen eventually. It means that if there are changes you can make to the way you live and the way your lifestyle is, that can make a benefit as well. ”

*Dubhglas Taylor, Dementia Advocate, husband and care partner*

“ This should be no scarier than Type II diabetes. People should not be afraid to get tested and understand their markers, and understand what they can do to stay well. ”

*Dementia Advocate*

“ I have found some people’s reaction to my condition to be near destructive, eroding my ability and desire to go out into the community. Fortunately, I have had the privilege of helping shape one of Australia’s first dementia-friendly communities. Here the difference is that many people are aware of what it is like to have dementia. They see me as like anyone else in the community – a person not a label. ”

*Dennis Frost, Dementia Advocate, living with dementia*

“ We have to remember that we’re not just keeping people alive for as long as possible, we’re keeping them alive with a great quality of life with rewarding experiences, enriching their lives as much as possible and allowing them to do things for as long as possible. Simple things that we forget, that when taken away from somebody, we’re really taking away a lot of their identity. ”

*Isabelle Burke, Dementia Advocate, daughter and care partner*