

Friday 1 March 2019

## **New National Palliative Care Strategy released with focus on future of services**

Dementia Australia commends Palliative Care Australia and the Australian Government on the release of the updated National Palliative Care Strategy, which provides a road map for the future focus of palliative care services across Australia.

The strategy, Palliative Care 2030, outlines guiding principles to assist the health, disability and aged care sectors, governments and the general community, to plan and prepare for the future where Australians will live longer, demand an improved quality of life, and access high quality palliative care when living with a life-limiting illness.

The strategy highlights the changing nature of Australia's demographics and the need to plan ahead for the increased demand for palliative care.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe welcomes the strategy and its acknowledgement of the unprecedented increase in deaths from dementia and the need to focus on people living with dementia.

"Dementia is the leading cause of death among Australian women and the second leading cause of death for Australians overall," Ms McCabe said.

"With the prevalence of dementia projected to increase to almost 1.1 million by 2058, so will the demand for services such as palliative care.

"As the population develops and grows, it is vital that the sector is guided to build capacity and meet the needs of all diverse members of the community.

"Access to high quality palliative care assists people with a terminal condition, including dementia, to live and die well, as well as to ensure their carers, family and friends are supported through any decisions they need to make.

"We need well-funded support and services that are responsive to individual needs to ensure care is holistic and respects dignity, privacy and diversity of the person."

"It is important for all Australians to have discussions about death and dying and the type of care you would want to receive if you can no longer speak for yourself."

*Palliative Care 2030: Working towards the future of quality palliative care for all* can be viewed here: [https://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2019/02/Palliative-Care-2030-public.pdf](https://palliativecare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2019/02/Palliative-Care-2030-public.pdf)

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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 436,000 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)

**Media contacts:** Gabrielle Prabhu 0447 253 583 [Gabrielle.Prabhu@dementia.org.au](mailto:Gabrielle.Prabhu@dementia.org.au)

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