

Media Release

Summit highlights needs of people with younger onset dementia

People living with younger onset dementia will today release a report "A New Horizon?" documenting the unique challenges faced by the 24,000 people living with the condition and outlining how the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and other funding systems including health and income security, should respond.

The report is a result of a conference held yesterday, led by people living with younger onset dementia and their carers to prioritise the action required to meet their needs.

It will be launched by Alzheimer's Australia National President and Australian of the Year 2013, Ita Buttrose, at Alzheimer's Australia's National Summit, *Younger Onset Dementia: A New Horizon*, at the Melbourne Convention Centre today.

Ms Buttrose said people living with dementia under the age of 65 have unique difficulties.

"They don't typically qualify for aged care and find it difficult to fit into disability services because they have to cope with a completely different set of professional and family-related issues," she said.

"They also experience difficulties accessing respite care, getting a diagnosis and dealing with stigma and isolation within the broader community."

More than 320 service providers, stakeholders and policy makers across the aged care, disability and mental health sectors will attend the Summit to discuss and address the challenges that people living with younger onset dementia have to overcome.

"With historic changes in health policy taking place with the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and the Federal Government's proposed aged care reforms, this is the time to make sure that people with younger onset dementia receive the support they need," Glenn Rees, CEO of Alzheimer's Australia said.

"The Report, "A New Horizon?" recommends a collaborative approach is needed to create solutions for improved access and choice.

"But for this to happen, consumers will need to be better informed to make choices about the services to meet their needs and service providers will need to be prepared to respond flexibly."

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Editors please note:

Members of the media are invited to a Press Conference with Ita Buttrose and people living with younger onset dementia.

Location: Melbourne Convention Centre, Plenary 2, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Vic
Time: 10:25 a.m.-10.45 a.m.

Members of the media are also invited to the attend the full Summit.

Location: Melbourne Convention Centre, Plenary 2, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Vic
Time: 9 a.m.-5.30 p.m.

Keynote speaker, Christian Bakker MSc, from the Florence Centre for Specialised Care in Young Onset Dementia, the Netherlands, will also be available for interviews.

For media enquiries contact:

Christine Bolt: 0400 004 553/ christine.bolt@alzheimers.org.au;
Kayla Morgan: 0407 019 430/ kayla.morgan@alzheimers.org.au