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Media Release

Alzheimer's Australia welcomes the Greens' plan for dementia care

Glenn Rees, CEO of Alzheimer's Australia has welcomed the Greens' plan for improving dementia care and investing in dementia research.

"The plan acknowledges the need to tackle dementia comprehensively if the 320,000 Australians with dementia are to have the support and care they need," Mr Rees said.

"It also recognises that the *Living Longer.Living Better* aged care reforms are only a first and important step to improving our health and aged care system for people with dementia.

"The priorities in the Greens' plan reflect some of those in Alzheimer's Australia's [Fight Dementia Campaign Election document](#) including additional community care packages, respite care for people with dementia, improving the quality of residential care and providing appropriate care for younger people with dementia.

"The proposed Dementia Action Framework identifies the need for a plan to build on the recognition of dementia as National Health Priority Area and ensure that progress is made in the timely diagnosis of dementia and the ability of hospital staff to recognise and respond to the needs of patients with dementia."

Mr Rees said that people with dementia experience a delay of up to three years in obtaining a diagnosis from the time symptoms first become apparent.

"The Greens' funding commitment of \$120 million over three years for dementia research holds out the promise of better understanding the causes of dementia and ways of treating it," he said.

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National Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500

An interpreter service is available

(The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)

Dementia is a National health priority Area

www.fightdementia.org.au

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