Media Release

Dementia centre stage of health policy internationally

A policy brief launched today by Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) has reported that the number of people living with dementia worldwide in 2013 is now estimated at 44 million (estimated at 35 million in 2010) reaching 76 million in 2030 (66 million) and 135 million by 2050 (115 million).

The release of The Global Impact of Dementia 2013-2050 report coincides with the first G8 Summit on dementia being held in London on 11 December. The G8 Summit, for the first time, will bring together Health Ministers from around the world and elevate dementia to the same level internationally as other chronic diseases such as cancer and HIV/AIDS.

CEO Alzheimer’s Australia, Glenn Rees, said that Australia should be proud of the success it has had in bringing dementia to the forefront of policy not only in Australia but internationally.

“Australia has led the way with regard to dementia policy, starting back in 2005. It is nice to see the rest of the world coming into line with what we know is a major health problem facing the world today,” Mr Rees said.

“The G8 Summit in London is a unique opportunity for international leaders to tackle dementia on a global scale and represents a monumental step forward in promoting awareness of dementia and the importance of providing care and support for people with dementia as well as the need for increased research to prevent and treat dementia.

“Australian Health Ministers made the commitment in August 2012 to make dementia a National Health Priority Area. The 2012 Aged Care Reforms have provided funding to tackle dementia in terms of diagnosis and better care of people with dementia in hospitals.

“The impact of dementia is increasing on developing countries and international action is needed to help the poorest countries.”

Currently in Australia there are more than 320,000 people living with dementia, and this figure is set to increase to over 900,000 by 2050.

National Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500
An interpreter service is available
(The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)
www.fightdementia.org.au

NOTES TO EDITOR
The full policy brief can be found here: www.alz.co.uk
For media enquiries, please contact:

Krystal Craig / 0407 019 430 / krystal.craig@alzheimers.org.au

About Alzheimer’s Disease International

ADI is the international federation of 79 Alzheimer associations throughout the world. Each of our 79 members is a non-profit Alzheimer Association supporting people with dementia and their families. ADI was founded in 1984 and registered as a non-profit organisation in the USA. Based in London, ADI is in official relations with the WHO since 1996 and has consultative status with the UN since 2012.

About Alzheimer’s Australia

Alzheimer’s Australia is the charity for people with dementia and their families and carers. As the peak body, it provides advocacy, support services, education and information. More than 320,000 people have dementia in Australia. This number is projected to reach more than half a million by 2030.