Media Release

Number of people with dementia in NSW on the rise

Dementia prevalence figures for 2014 reveal a leap in the number of Australians with dementia to more than 332,000\(^1\).

Analysis of dementia prevalence rates by Deloitte Access Economics reveal coastal and regional NSW will continue to bear the brunt of increasing dementia prevalence rates, while the metropolitan areas of the State will also experience a steady increase in the number of people with dementia.

Dementia prevalence rates for 2014 indicate that there are almost 112,000 people living with dementia in NSW, which is expected to grow to 132,000 people by 2020\(^1\).

The Tweed and Port Macquarie state electorates sit at the top of the table when it comes to projected dementia prevalence rates, with both electorates expected to have more than 5,000 people with dementia each by 2050.

The CEO of Alzheimer’s Australia NSW, The Hon. John Watkins, said the projected prevalence rates mean we must act now to ensure there are better care and support services for people with dementia and their families.

“Dementia is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain and is the third leading cause of death in Australia,” Mr Watkins said.

“The rise in the number of people with dementia is an indication of the huge challenge ahead.

“It is essential that we start building better care and support for people with dementia and their family carers. We need to build better community and residential care facilities, better support systems, and decrease the stigma and social isolation that often comes with the disease.

“Everyone, from Government to industry providers and the general public, has a role to play in creating a community that can accommodate and support the rising number of people affected by the condition and the estimated 1.2 million people that care for them.”

All state electorates in NSW will experience an increase in the number of people diagnosed with dementia each year.

Alzheimer’s Australia NSW 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 332,000 people have dementia in Australia. This number is projected to reach more than half a million by 2030.

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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\(^1\) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012) Dementia in Australia