



**Dementia
Australia™**

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23 April 2021

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Roadmap for Quality Dementia Care is the solution for Government to the recommendations about Dementia from the Royal Commission.

We write on behalf of the **half a million Australians living with dementia** and the **1.6 million people** involved in their care.

Dementia is one of the largest health and social challenges facing Australia and the world. As well as being the chronic condition of the 21st Century it is a debilitating, progressive and ultimately terminal disease and the second leading cause of death of Australians annually and the leading cause of death of women.

Many Australians living with dementia require care, whether this is in their own home, or in an aged care setting. **Of all the people living in care 68 per cent have dementia**, and the disease is increasingly impacting younger Australians. In fact of the half a million people in Australia living with dementia, **28,000 are in their fifties, their forties and their thirties.**

Since September 2018 people living with dementia, their families and carers have entrusted the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety with their views, personal experiences and often traumatic stories. The Royal Commission's Final Report: Care, Dignity and Respect, captures the essence of those issues and demonstrates that the Commissioners have listened.

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Now it is time for the Australian Government to act.

Your response provides a once in a generation opportunity to commit to the funding and policy settings we need to deliver quality dementia care. It is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

The Royal Commission identified important recommendations, including the establishment of a dementia support pathway (Recommendation 15), greater funding for specialist dementia care services (Recommendation 16), Aged Care Quality Standards which reflect high quality dementia care (Recommendation 19), dementia friendly design in residential aged care (Recommendation 45) and dementia care training for workers (Recommendations 80, 114).

All of these recommendations are reflected in Dementia Australia's Roadmap for Quality Dementia Care, the product of extensive consultations with people living with dementia. We call on the Government to embrace and fund the Roadmap urgently and in its entirety.

These reforms are well overdue. We have seen twenty years of reviews and reports that say the same thing: we can and must do better.

If we get care right for people living with dementia, we get it right for everyone. Thank you for everything you currently do as our Prime Minister and we thank you in anticipation of your partnership that will make a profound and lasting difference to the lives of Australians living with dementia, now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor
Graeme Samuel AC**

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Chair,
Dementia
Australia

**Ita Buttrose
AC OBE**

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Ambassador,
Dementia
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Phil Hazell

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Chair Advisory
Committee,
Dementia
Australia

Maree McCabe

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Chief Executive
Officer,
Dementia
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Dementia Australia Honorary Medical Advisors

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Rebecca Scouller	Stephen Grady	Yvette Aubusson-Foley

CC:

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services