

Tuesday 27 April 2021

Two million Australians call on the Prime Minister to fund quality dementia care

Prominent Australians including Prof Graeme Samuel AC, Ita Buttrose AC OBE, Denis Walter, The Veronicas and Abbie Chatfield have banded together with more than 200 Dementia Advocates to write to the Prime Minister ahead of next month's Federal Budget. [The letter](#) calls on the Government to fund the [Roadmap for Quality Dementia Care](#) developed by Dementia Australia with partners Dementia Training Australia and Dementia Support Australia.

The letter is written on behalf of the half a million Australians living with dementia and the 1.6 million people involved in their care and describes the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's final recommendations as a "once in a generation opportunity to commit to the funding and policy settings we need to deliver quality dementia care" and "an opportunity we cannot afford to miss".

Professor Graeme Samuel AC, Chair of Dementia Australia said that after twenty years of reviews and reports, now is the time for the Government to fund quality dementia care.

"We have written to the Prime Minister as a matter of urgency to ensure this once in a generation opportunity to transform dementia care and the aged care system overall is seized by the Government, Prof Samuel said.

"We expect a significant investment and transformation in the May budget that will make a profound difference to the experience of people affected by dementia – now and for generations to come. These reforms are well overdue," Prof Samuel said.

The group calls for the urgent commitment to and implementation of Dementia Australia's Roadmap for Quality Dementia Care which has been presented to the Federal Government as a solution to the comprehensive reforms recommended by the Royal Commission.

The Roadmap highlights the three key areas of transformation that, if adopted, will make a substantial difference to the delivery of quality dementia care for people impacted by dementia and ensure quality dementia care for all people living with dementia, their families and carers.

These areas are:

1. Improving dementia support pathways
2. Building workforce capacity
3. Dementia-friendly design.

Dementia Australia is the source of trusted information, education and services for the estimated half a million Australians living with dementia, and the almost 1.6 million people involved in their care. We advocate for positive change and support vital research. We are here to support people impacted by dementia, and to enable them to live as well as possible. No matter how you are impacted by dementia or who you are, we are here for you.

For support, please contact the **National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500**. An interpreter service is available and the Helpline is open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday excluding public holidays. The National Dementia Helpline is funded by the Australian Government. People looking for information can also visit dementia.org.au

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See complete letter in following pages.

When talking or writing about dementia please refer to [Dementia-Friendly Language Guidelines](#).





**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**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graeme Samuel".

Chair,
Dementia
Australia

**Ita Buttrose
AC OBE**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ita Buttrose".

Ambassador,
Dementia
Australia

Phil Hazell

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Hazell".

Chair Advisory
Committee,
Dementia
Australia

Maree McCabe

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maree McCabe".

Chief Executive
Officer,
Dementia
Australia



Dementia Australia Honorary Medical Advisors

Professor Henry Brodaty AO
Professor Amy Brodtmann
Associate Professor Michael Woodward AM

Dementia Australia Ambassadors

Lyn Allison	Andrea Nicolas
David Astle	Jessica and Lisa Origliasso - The Veronicas
Stephanie Bendixsen	Sue Pieters-Hawke
Dr Christine Bryden AM PSM	Andrew 'Reidy' Reid
Ben Crocker	Mark Seymour
Mark Gibson	Nicola Stevens
Takaya Honda	Denis Walter OAM
Amy Jackson	The Hon. John Watkins AM
Sam Mitchell	Pat Welsh
Allan Moffat OBE	Doris Younane

Friends of Dementia Australia

Abbie Chatfield
Colin Fassnidge
Denise Scott

Dementia Advocates

Alan Attwood	Anne Turner	Bronte Parkin
Alison Maher	Anthony Arrigo	Bronwyn Lee
Alice Summons	Athena Batcheldor	Bruce Weber
Andree Ernst	Barrie Anderson	Cameron Stewart
Ann Lord	Barry Dailey	Carla Italiano
Ann Pietsch	Benito Chan Jr.	Carmine Mercurio
Anna Toomey	Bernadette Healey	Catherine Dever
Anne Fairhall	Bill Yeates	Cheryl Bruce
Anne Kern	Bobby Redman	Cheryl Staddon
Anne Tudor	Brian Reeves	Chris Finley

Chris White	Jane Gardam	Kalee Henry
Christine Field	Jane Sandow	Karen Dubois
Christine Kirby	Jane Thompson	Karen Moores
Claire White	Janet Mitchell	Kate Della-Vedova
Colin Allchurch	Jason van Genderen	Katherine Medic
Daniel Gardam	Jayne Francis	Kathleen Wells
Danijela Hlis	Jeffrey Thurlow	Adjunct Professor Kathryn
David Doig	Jennifer Borgonah	Moyle (PhD)
David Wise	Jennifer Carr	Karen Glennen
Deanne Morris	Jennifer Lawson`	Katy Hughes
Debbie Barker	Jenny Fitzpatrick	Kay Barralet
Deborah Ward	Jenny Henderson	Keith Davies
Denise Palmer	Jenny McGlinn	Keith Heckenberg
Dennis Frost	Joan Henderson	Kerin Glennen
Diane Exelby	Joan Waters	Kerryn Ernst
Dianne Horsham	Joanne van Os	Kevyn Morris
Dubhglas Taylor	Joanne Watts	Kim Gould
Eileen Taylor	Joe Coppi	Laura McPherson
Elena Donati	John Butler	Leeona McCann
Ezter Praollini	John Henley	Leona Fitzgerald
Gaylene Bayfield	John Hiller	Lex Silvester
Gen Simmons	John Hodgkinson	Dr Louise Rowling
George Papadopoulos	John Quinn	Lynda Henderson
Glenys Petrie	John Rodgers	Lynette Hansen
Gordon Dutton	John Thorpe	Mabel Cheng
Graham Wright	John Ward	Maggie Jones
Grahame Smith	Juanita Hughes	Margo Bryan
Gwenda Darling	Judy Briedis	Marianne Gevers
Heather Fitzpatrick	Judy Howie	Martin Goodman
Heather Macklin	Julia Wild	Mary Root
Helen Hamilton	Dr Julianne East	Meg Bakic
Helen Hiller	Dr. Julie Gross McAdam	Megan Fraser
Ian Gladstone	Julie Scott	Megan van Genderen
Ian Macindoe PhD	June Fisher	Mervyn Gillies
Imelda Gilmore	June Nielson (Veronica	Michael Simpson
Isabelle Burke	June Nielson)	Michelle Foster

Mike Harris	Rob Jack	Stephen Mackey
Mithrani Mahadeva	Robert Gooding	Stephen Parker
Miyabi Bradley	Robert Henderson	Steve Rawlins
Moira Fitzsimon	Robert Maloney	Susan Burgess
Mona Wannous	Robyn Ashley-Brown	Susan Ryan
Nadine Robinson	Rodney Reed	Tara McDonald
Natalia Benitez	Ron Jennings	Terry McLafferty
Natalie Ive	Dr Ron Sinclair OAM	Theresa Flavin
Nell Hawe	Sally Pertzell	Timothy Granger
Neville Steemson	Sam Hajinakitas	Timothy Pietsch
Pamela Hore	Sandra Erickson	Tony Van Vugt
Pamela Payne (Heckenberg)	Sandra Nel	Tony Walsh
Pauline Doig	Sandra Timmins	Trevor Crosby
Pearlie McNeill	Sarah Ashton	Trish Butler
Peter Antcliff	Sarah Mansfield	Val Fell
Peter Clayden	Scott Cooper	Val Schache
Peter Swindell	Scott Hyams	Vanessa McQuarrie
Phillip Nel	Sebastian Caruso	Verity Russell
Phillipa Reiss	Shane LeBrun	Veronica Clarke
Pushpa Jayakody	Sharon Jan	Wayne Lockley
Rae Telfer	Shaun Lennon	Wendy Archer
Rebecca Jones	Simone Pappalettera	Wendy Hodgkinson
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