

How you can make dementia the federal government's priority

With dementia set to soon become the nation's leading cause of death, Dementia Australia is urgently calling on all parties, independents and candidates to commit to immediate action.

There are an estimated 433,300 Australians living with dementia and 29,000 people living with younger onset dementia. Two thirds of Australians with dementia live in our community and around 1.7 million people are involved in their care. Dementia is a progressive brain condition and there is currently no cure.

The situation is already critical with our hospitals, acute care and aged care systems all increasingly unable to meet demand. Two in three people living with dementia live in the community and there are long waits to receive home care packages. People living with dementia wait longer in hospitals to get access to residential aged care than someone who doesn't have dementia. The length of stay in hospital is five times longer than for someone without dementia.

Dementia Australia is calling on the federal government to:

1. launch a national conversation on dementia to raise awareness of the condition and to promote brain health at all ages
2. establish a team of dementia specialist care coordinators within Dementia Australia to deliver nationally consistent support and navigation to people of all ages living with dementia, their families and carers
3. build the capability of the workforce to provide care and support for people living with dementia.

The time to act on dementia is now – without a significant intervention the number of Australians who will be living with dementia is set to double in the next 30 years.

People living with dementia, their families and carers are depending on us to get this right - now. We cannot afford to wait for action!