Older Tasmanian's Action Plan 2025 – 2029

Governance Group Scoping Paper

Dementia Australia Submission October 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed arrangements for the Older Tasmanian's Action Plan Governance Group. Dementia Australia congratulates the Tasmanian Government on the development of the Action Plan and the creation of the new Minister for Ageing portfolio.

Dementia is now the leading cause of death in Australia, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Dementia causes significant disability through loss of cognitive and physical function. In 2025, there are an estimated 10,900 Tasmanians living with dementia, the considerable majority of whom are aged over 65. This figure is projected to increase to an estimated 16,500 by 2054 [1].

We support the proposed Purpose and Functions of the Governance Group. It is critical that membership of the Governance Group include significant representation of older people, including those with living experience of dementia.

Dementia Australia supports a network of Dementia Advocates in Tasmania who are skilled and knowledgeable about the experience of living with dementia, caring and ageing in the State. We would be happy to assist in supporting people living with dementia and carers to nominate to participate in the Governance Group. We would also be happy to provide a representative from Dementia Australia.

We recommend consulting with our guide to meaningful engagement with people living with dementia, available here: **Half the Story**. Practical considerations include providing accessible, appropriate venues for people living with dementia, remuneration, travel and accommodation expenses.

Dementia Australia also recommends that First Nations Tasmanians and First Nations service providers are specifically sought out for membership the Governance Group, to provide important insight into First Nations older people's experiences of ageing in Tasmania.

With respect to other relevant groups that may be of interest, Dementia Australia is a member of the newly formed national Human Rights as We Age Network, facilitated by the Australian

Human Rights Commission. This Network works collaboratively to advance rights for older people across Australia. Tasmanian officials responsible for implementing the Older Tasmanians Action Plan may wish to stay appraised of the activities of the Network in combatting ageism nationally and promoting rights for older people.

Dementia Australia is also supporting a reinvigorated Parliamentary Friends of Dementia group in Tasmania, with a Parliamentary event planned for December 2025.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with the Tasmanian Government further to tackle ageism and promote inclusion.

The Dementia Australia Policy and Advocacy team can be contacted at **policyteam@dementia.org.au**

References:

1. Dementia Australia. *Facts and Figures* 2025; Available from: **https://www.dementia.org.au/about-dementia/dementia-facts-and-figures**.

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