

Strategic Plan

2026-2029



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OUR PURPOSE To drive real-world progress by accelerating dementia research.

VALUES Authentic | Living experience | Inclusive | Collaborative | Empowering

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1 Invest in dementia research

- 1.1 Develop a framework to drive increased funding for dementia research.
- 1.2 Ensure the Foundation's funded research is highly visible and well-regarded.
- 1.3 Consider priority populations and under-funded research areas in annual funding round allocations.

2 Strengthen the dementia research workforce

- 2.1 Identify mechanisms (in addition to funding) to support talented early-and mid-career researchers (including academic, clinical and non-clinical researchers) to build high-profile and impactful dementia research careers.
- 2.2 Build the capacity of the Foundation's grant recipients to engage meaningfully with people with living or lived experience of dementia in accordance with the ALICE principles.

3 Accelerate translation and implementation of dementia research

- 3.1 Support researchers to consider and pursue opportunities for translation and implementation, including commercialisation.
- 3.2 Broker connections between researchers and translation, implementation and commercialisation partners, including industry, to accelerate uptake.
- 3.3 Proactively seek opportunities to work with Dementia Australia teams to enhance collective impact and drive translation.

4 Drive collaboration and connection

- 4.1 Bring researchers together to share learnings and opportunities to improve coordination, including connections to policy makers and people with living or lived experience of dementia.
- 4.2 Establish an annual pulse check on Australia's dementia research and translation system, identifying progress, gaps and priorities.

ENABLERS

Inclusion of living experience

Funding and philanthropy

Dementia Australia's: sector leadership and advocacy, systems, processes and resources (see Dementia Australia strategic plan)

Strategic **priorities** and **enablers**



1. STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Invest in dementia research

Dementia Australia Research Foundation is a leading non-government funder of dementia research, with a core focus on supporting early- and mid-career researchers. Its independence has enabled the Foundation to support innovative and underfunded research that is often missed by traditional funding pathways. Building on this role, the Foundation will sharpen its impact by seeking opportunities to grow dementia research funding, increasing the visibility of our funded research, and directing investment to areas where gaps in the dementia research landscape persist.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1.1

Develop a framework to drive increased funding for dementia research.

1.2

Ensure the Foundation's research is highly visible and well-regarded.

1.3

Consider priority populations and under-funded research areas in annual funding round allocations.

2. STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Strengthen the dementia research workforce

Dementia Australia Research Foundation will strengthen Australia's whole dementia research workforce, including academic, clinical (e.g., medical, nursing, allied health) and non-clinical (e.g., health promotion and education, social policy and advocacy) disciplines. The Foundation will focus on additional capability-building support, beyond that provided through grant funding. While supporting early- and mid-career researchers remains central to our role, there is an opportunity to extend impact through targeted mechanisms that develop skills, support career sustainability and retain talent in the sector. This priority positions the Foundation to champion a skilled, future-ready research community capable of delivering meaningful advances in dementia research.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

2.1

Identify mechanisms (in addition to funding) to support talented early- and mid-career researchers (including academic, clinical and non-clinical researchers) to build high-profile and impactful dementia research careers.

2.2

Build the capacity of the Foundation's grant recipients to engage meaningfully with people with living or lived experience in accordance with the ALICE principles.

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Accelerate translation and implementation of dementia research

Dementia Australia Research Foundation will accelerate the real-world impact of dementia research by strengthening pathways from evidence to practice. Many of the Foundation's funded projects generate promising findings, but translational and implementation pathways often sit outside of traditional research funding and capability. This priority positions the Foundation to build researchers' translation skills, foster stronger connections with policy, service and commercial partners, and promote a more impact-led research culture, so that dementia research can deliver meaningful change for people affected by dementia.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

3.1

Support researchers to consider and pursue opportunities for translation and implementation, including commercialisation.

3.2

Broker connections between researchers and translation, implementation and commercialisation partners, including industry, to accelerate uptake.

3.3

Proactively seek opportunities to work with Dementia Australia teams to enhance collective impact and drive translation.

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Drive collaboration and connection

Dementia Australia Research Foundation will drive stronger collaboration and connection across Australia's dementia research system to improve coordination and accelerate impact. High-quality research is occurring across the sector, but activity is often fragmented, which limits knowledge sharing and collective progress. The Foundation will bring researchers, policy makers, people with living experience and other stakeholders together to foster a more connected, coordinated and impactful research environment.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1

Bring researchers together to share learnings and opportunities to improve coordination, including connections to policy makers and people with living experience.

4.2

Establish an annual pulse check on Australia's dementia research and translation system, identifying progress, gaps and priorities.

Enablers

THE ENABLERS UNDERPIN ALL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

INCLUSION OF LIVING EXPERIENCE

Dementia Australia Research Foundation will embed the inclusion of living experience across its research activities as a core principle of best practice. This includes representation of living or lived experience in advocacy and grant decision-making and building researchers' capability to meaningfully and ethically involve people impacted by dementia in research. This enabler strengthens the relevance, quality and real-world impact of our research and increases the likelihood of translation into practice.



FUNDING AND PHILANTHROPY

Sustainable funding and philanthropy are central to the Foundation's ability to deliver its strategy and extend its impact. Philanthropic contributions support the Foundation's core functions, but additional resources will be required to enable growth and innovation. Aligning strategic direction and funding approaches with philanthropic priorities will enable the Foundation to deepen donor engagement and expand the pool of support for dementia research.



DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA'S SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY, SYSTEMS, PROCESSES AND RESOURCES

(see Dementia Australia strategic plan)

The Foundation is enabled by Dementia Australia's sector leadership, systems and organisational capabilities. As a subsidiary, the Foundation will leverage shared infrastructure, relationships and expertise to complement existing work and avoid duplication across the organisation. This enabler supports efficient strategy delivery while recognising that additional resourcing may be required to fully realise the Foundation's ambitions.

