

# Transforming dementia care

## The issue

Dementia is one of the largest health and social challenges facing Australia and the world. Dementia is a terminal condition and there is currently no cure.

There are an estimated  
**459,000**  
Australians living  
with dementia  
in 2020

There are around  
**1.6m**  
people involved  
in their care

Without a significant  
medical breakthrough,  
by 2058 there will be  
**1.1m**  
people living  
with dementia

## Dementia as core business

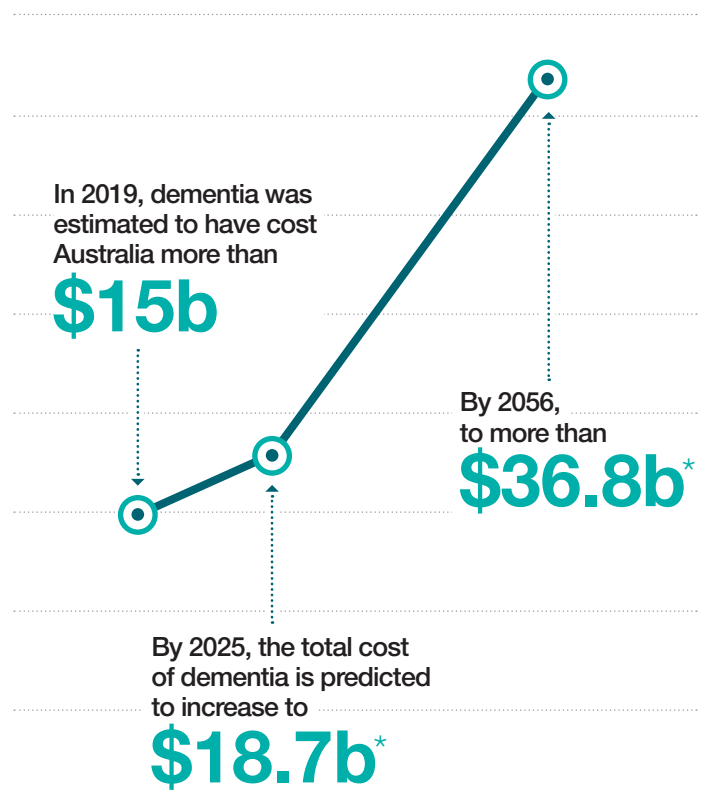
Health, aged care and disability sector reforms over recent years have been increasingly based on the belief that supporting people impacted by dementia should be part of core business for service providers. However, despite the pace of reforms, there is still much to do before this becomes a reality.

We want to work with governments to create an inclusive future in which all people impacted by dementia receive the care and support that they need and deserve. This can be largely achieved through:

### Timely diagnosis and early intervention

**Dementia Care Navigators** – to provide assistance to people living with dementia, their families and carers to navigate the aged care, disability and health care services, and find the most appropriate supports as the disease progresses.

**Online GP education** – to ensure that dementia education for general practitioners and other healthcare professionals is embedded into ongoing continuing professional development.



## Implementing quality dementia care

**Quality dementia care in practice** – to offer health and environmental audits to aged care providers to help them provide holistic and person-centred care that is underpinned by strong leadership and a positive culture within and across the sector.

**Foundational dementia education** – to expand the capacity of the aged care workforce to both understand and respond to dementia through two 3-hour non-accredited courses that address ‘Understanding dementia’ and ‘Applying a problem solving approach to behaviour’.

**Dementia practice leaders** – to educate 1,000 aged care workers across three years to successfully complete the Certificate IV in Dementia Practice to then provide coaching and mentoring to other staff in their service or organisation.

**Dementia community of practice** – to establish a dementia community of practice, aimed at bettering outcomes for people living with dementia, their families and carers through professional networking to facilitate innovation in dementia care.

## Reducing discrimination

**Social movement of inclusiveness** – to coordinate a multi-media awareness campaign with the aim to develop community knowledge of dementia and foster an empathetic approach towards people impacted by dementia.

## Conclusion

Investing in initiatives that define the pathway to diagnosis, develop mechanisms to embed quality dementia care and reduce the daily discrimination people impacted by dementia currently face will demonstrate that governments are serious about creating an inclusive future for people living with dementia, their families and carers in Australia.

The full submission can be accessed via the Dementia Australia website <https://www.dementia.org.au/files/submissions/Dementia-Australia-2020-21-Federal-Pre-Budget-Submission.pdf>

## Endnotes

1 Dementia Australia (2018) Dementia Prevalence Data 2018-2058, commissioned research undertaken by The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling [NATSEM], University of Canberra

2 The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling [NATSEM] for Dementia Australia (2016) Economic Cost of Dementia in Australia 2016-2056