

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS 2014

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS

- There are more than 332,000¹ Australians living with dementia
- This number is expected to increase by one third to 400,000¹ in less than ten years
- Without a medical breakthrough, the number of people with dementia is expected to be almost 900,000 by 2050¹
- Each week, there are more than 1,700 new cases of dementia in Australia; approx. one person every 6 minutes.² This is expected to grow to 7,400 new cases each week by 2050²
- There are approximately 24,700¹ people in Australia with Younger Onset Dementia (a diagnosis of dementia under the age of 65; including people as young as 30)
- Three in ten people over the age of 85 and almost one in ten people over 65 have dementia¹
- An estimated 1.2 million people are involved in the care of a person with dementia³
- Dementia is the third leading cause of death in Australia⁴ and there is no cure
- On average symptoms of dementia are noticed by families three years before a firm diagnosis is made⁵

THE IMPACT OF DEMENTIA IN AUSTRALIA

- Dementia is the single greatest cause of disability in older Australians (aged 65 years or older)² and the third leading cause of disability burden overall¹
- Australia faces a shortage of more than 150,000 paid and unpaid carers for people with dementia by 2029⁶
- Total direct health and aged care system expenditure on people with dementia was at least \$4.9 billion in 2009-10¹
- Dementia will become the third greatest source of health and residential aged care spending within two decades. These costs alone will be around 1% of GDP²
- By the 2060s, spending on dementia is set to outstrip that of any other health condition. It is projected to be \$83 billion (in 2006-07 dollars), and will represent around 11% of health and residential aged care sector spending²
- More than 50% of residents in Australian Government-subsidised aged care facilities have dementia (85,227 out of 164,116 permanent residents with an ACFI assessment at 30 June, 2011)⁷
- Almost half (44%) of permanent residents with dementia also had a diagnosis of a mental illness⁷

RESEARCH FUNDING

- The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will allocate approximately \$32 million to dementia research in 2013-14. This is an increase on the \$21.5 million spent in 2012-13, but still well short of funding for research on other diseases⁸
- The Federal Government has committed to providing an additional \$200 million for dementia research over the next five years. This funding will significantly boost funding for Australia's dementia research sector to over \$60 million per annum, and will begin to bring dementia research funding into line with other chronic diseases
- One of the pressing issues is to build capacity in the dementia research sector by supporting students and early career dementia researchers. The Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation, supported by donations from the public, plays a major role in this effort and will fund almost 30 grants, scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships in 2014

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

- Worldwide, there are more than 44 million people with dementia today and 135 million predicted by 2050⁹
- In high income countries only 20-50% of people with dementia are recognised and documented in primary care¹⁰
- The total estimated worldwide costs of dementia were US\$604 billion in 2010¹¹
- If dementia were a country, it would be the world's 18th largest economy¹¹

WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

Dementia is the term used to describe the symptoms of a large group of illnesses which cause a progressive decline in a person's functioning. It is a broad term used to describe a loss of memory, intellect, rationality, social skills and physical functioning. There are many types of dementia including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, fronto temporal dementia and dementia with Lewy Bodies. Dementia can happen to anybody, but it is more common after the age of 65.

Alzheimer's Australia is the charity for people with dementia and their families and carers. As the peak body, it provides advocacy, support services, education and information. www.fightdementia.org.au

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012) *Dementia in Australia*.

² Access Economics (2009) *Keeping Dementia Front of Mind: Incidence and prevalence 2009-2050*. Report for Alzheimer's Australia.

³ Alzheimer's Australia, (2011) *Pfizer Health Report Issue #45 – Dementia*, Pfizer Australia.

⁴ Australian Bureau of statistics (2013) *Causes of Death, Australia, 2011*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2013

⁵ Phillips, J., Pond, D., Goode, S (2011) *Timely Diagnosis of Dementia: Can we do better?*

⁶ Access Economics (2009) *Making choices, Future Dementia Care: Projections, Problems and Preferences*. Report for Alzheimer's Australia

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012) *Residential aged care in Australia 2010-11: A statistical overview*. Cat. no. AGE 68. Canberra

⁸ National Health and Medical Research Council (2013) *Research and Funding statistics and data*

⁹ Alzheimer's Disease International (2013) *Policy Brief for Heads of Government: The Global Impact of Dementia 2013 - 2050*

¹⁰ Alzheimer's Disease International (2011) *The Benefits of Early Diagnosis and Intervention*. World Alzheimer Report

¹¹ Alzheimer's Disease International (2010) *The Global Economic Impact of Dementia*. World Alzheimer Report

National Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500 (The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)