



Medical Research Future Fund's Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission – National Consultation on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan

Dementia Australia's survey responses

22 April 2021

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Are the priority areas for investment identified in the Implementation Plan the most effective way for delivering on the Mission's goal and aims? (max 300 words)

Dementia Australia supports the priority areas for investment identified in the implementation plan, which largely align with our strategic objectives as an organisation – timely diagnosis and support; improving quality care; and addressing stigma and discrimination. We also welcome the inclusion and recognition of the key role carers of people living with dementia play.

Investing in areas which focus on a holistic and multidisciplinary approach provide an opportunity to improve quality of life and enable a greater understanding of person-centred care.

We also welcome the focus on exploring and investing in new technologies to improve the lives of people living with dementia, their families, carers and the workforce who care for them. We are equally pleased to see diversity having an explicit focus – an area, which requires much attention in the ageing research space.

Additionally, we support the priority investment of developing more comprehensive datasets, particularly across the care continuum as this is an existing gap which needs addressing.

Are there existing research activities which could be utilised to contribute to the Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission Roadmap and/or Implementation Plan aims and priority areas for investment? How can these be leveraged? (max 200 words)

There are opportunities that could be explored through National Collaborative Dementia Centres (NCDC), which are an expansion of the Australian Dementia Network (ADNeT) infrastructure. ADNeT brings together Australia's leading researchers, clinicians and consumers to create a powerful network for dementia prevention, treatment and care.

Since the grant award in July 2018, ADNeT has established its three principal initiatives:

- Establishment of a clinical quality registry for dementia;
- Development of unified guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of dementia and a network of dementia clinics; and
- Acceleration of the development of effective treatments to prevent and treat dementia through improved patient screening for and trial participation.

The MRFF could work in collaboration with ADNeT and NCDCs to further explore diagnosis, clinical trials and pathways for support for people living with dementia, their families and carers. The aim is that these centres will provide a one-stop-shop for people living with dementia and through this, result in better coordination and collaborative research in dementia.

If this is an opportunity you would like to explore in greater detail, you can discuss this further with Dementia Australia Chair, Professor Graeme Samuel AC.

Are the ‘Evaluation approach and measures’ appropriate for assessing and monitoring progress towards the mission’s goal and aims? (max 200 words)

The evaluation approach and measures are appropriate to progressing the mission’s goal and aims. Dementia Australia does however, encourage the MRFF to develop key milestones for each of the priority areas and reassess and evaluate progress on a biannual basis (6 months). This will ensure each priority is reviewed, continuous improvements are made and the project remains on track to achieve its set objectives.

It would also be beneficial to involve people with a lived experience in the monitoring and evaluation process to ensure the research findings are translatable. People living with dementia, their families and carers can provide a wealth of knowledge and key insights to support the research activities moving forward.

Dementia Australia would be happy to share these opportunities with our networks.