

National Dementia Action Plan  
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Dear Consultation Team

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Dementia Action Plan Public Consultation Paper (paper). The paper provides governments with a solid foundation on which to build and sustain a new, integrated 10-year national dementia action plan. From our conversations with older Australians, we are confident the actions highlighted in the paper complement their expectations (well summarised in the paper's Opportunities for improvement (page 5)).

We applaud the paper aims to place people at the centre of a well-functioning and capable system. We support the proposed vision and objectives and give in principle support to the proposed actions and measures. Plus, we support the areas targeted for priority action in the first three years of the proposed action plan. We concur they are strategically essential to strengthening the service culture and physical architecture needed to enable the seven (7) objectives to thrive and deliver – over the coming decade – quality, appropriate, person centred services to people affected by dementia.

**Other key strengths** of the paper include:

- its preparation was preceded by extensive community consultation
- the proposed focus areas and actions are informed by the experience of living with dementia (people with dementia carers and dementia experts)
- its consistency with Australia's member state commitments to the [WHO Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017 – 2025](#) – that is, to *realize the vision of a world in which dementia is prevented and people with dementia and their carers receive the care and support they need to live a life with meaning and dignity.*
- the AIHW's National Centre for Monitoring Dementia being identified as responsible for monitoring the progress of an endorsed Action Plan and for providing an annual Action Plan Report Card
- its complementarity with the views put forward by the Royal Commission into Aged Care and Safety
- its highlighting of inclusive stakeholder collaboration as being essential to refining, implementing and reviewing the agreed actions and measures over the coming decade and using this intelligence to forge the proposed, three successive Action Plan Blueprints to cover the life of the action plan
- its focus on mapping a clear-sighted way forward rather than deliberating on what is dementia and/or attributions of praise or blame for the current service system
- its acknowledgment of the groups at higher risk of developing dementia and/or facing inequitable service access barriers and ensuring pertinent comments remain succinct.

We appreciate the care taken to ensure the paper (in its full or summary form) is targeted to be read and understood by people who are reasonably familiar with the English language. However, we suggest given Australia's ethnic diversity, it is important people unfamiliar with or hesitant to converse in English, be provided the opportunity to input into subsequent public consultations.

Compared to its predecessors, we see the hallmark of the forthcoming National Dementia Action Plan is it will be informed and guided by the voices and experiences of people living with dementia, their families and services. Post 31 January, we look forward to being advised of governments' consideration of the current consultation's outcomes and how these will be used to inform the development of the action plan. We would also welcome working alongside other stakeholders to inform the development of Blueprint 1 (2023-2026).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Sparrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Patricia Sparrow  
Chief Executive Officer