



Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission

Roadmap



Theme
Research
missions

The Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission will invest \$185 million over 10 years under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to improve outcomes for people living with dementia and older Australians. The mission will support older people to maintain their health and quality of life as they age, live independently for longer and access quality care when they need it.

The impact of dementia, ageing and aged care in Australia is considerable and continues to grow as our older population grows. In 2017, 15% of Australia's total population — around 3.8 million people — were aged 65 and over. By 2057, this figure is projected to grow to more than 8.8 million, or around 22% of the population.

Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia, and the number one cause of death for women. There are currently more than 447,000 people living with dementia in Australia, with this number expected to reach around 1.1 million by 2058.



Scope

The mission will invest in research that enhances the lives of Australians as they age by:

- reducing the impact of dementia and chronic diseases
- extending the healthy, active years of life, compressing the period of morbidity, and reducing the need for health and aged care services
- ensuring that Australians and the health system are equipped for people to 'age well'
- identifying appropriate support and care models to help older Australians with chronic diseases to live meaningful lives



Our goal

To improve quality of life for Australians as they age.



Our mission

To generate measurable improvements in the:

- detection, prevention, assessment and treatment of dementia, and care and support for people living with dementia
- average healthy lifespan experienced by older Australians
- consistency and quality of care for older Australians across all care settings



Funding principles

Activities funded under this mission should:

- be, or contribute to, large national programs of work of strategic importance in key priority areas as outlined in the implementation plan. Research activities are expected to foster collaboration and harness resources across the system to deliver improved health outcomes for Australians
- focus on the needs of people who have already attained old age
- have measurable impacts on known areas of need in policy and practice
- identify and measure a targeted improvement in health outcomes for older Australians
- span the spectrum of discovery, translation and implementation science
- consider all older people, inclusive of socioeconomic status, culture, gender, geography and life experience
- promote meaningful involvement with consumers, carers, aged care providers and clinicians (as relevant) at all stages of research
- consider new and emerging trends in ageing, aged care and dementia treatment, management and care
- address identified gaps in the evidence base for supporting people with dementia and their carers across their trajectory of living with dementia, from pre-diagnosis to end of life
- foster a culture of research excellence in dementia, ageing and aged care, including building research capacity
- facilitate domestic and international collaboration — including collaboration with other MRFF missions and initiatives, the research sector, and industry sectors — to build on the best evidence in dementia, ageing and aged care research
- seek co-investment from the private sector, philanthropic organisations and government, through partnerships and with appropriate governance
- build appropriate data and information infrastructure(s) to facilitate critical measurement

- seek to identify, understand and address inequalities of access to, and outcomes of, health and care services, including consideration of
 - people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
 - people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - people who live in rural or remote areas
 - people who are financially or socially disadvantaged
 - people who are veterans of the Australian Defence Force or an allied defence force, including the spouse, widow or widower of a veteran
 - people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless
 - people who are care leavers (which includes Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations)
 - parents separated from their children by forced adoption or removal
 - people from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities
 - prisoners and ex-prisoners

Priority areas for investment

Research areas that are high priority for funding include:

- interventions that prevent or delay the onset of dementia symptoms
- care approaches to manage the impact of dementia on wellbeing and quality of life
- care and diagnostic pathways to enable timely diagnosis of dementia
- health and medical interventions in mid-life and beyond that will extend healthy, active years of life and compress the period of morbidity
- approaches to strengthen proactive health management, including health literacy, for older people
- interventions that address social, economic and cultural barriers to healthy ageing to reduce inequality in healthy life expectancy in Australia
- models of care that
 - deliver high-quality, culturally appropriate care, informed by life experience, in home and residential aged care settings, that support individuals and their informal/family carers
 - ensure equitable and appropriate access to quality clinical care and minimise avoidable transitions between all care settings
 - maximise medical, nursing and allied health impact
 - maximise social inclusion and multigenerational engagement in long-term care settings