

National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034

Annual Activity Reporting

First Report (2025) - Tasmania



Introduction

The [National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034](#) (Action Plan) provides a comprehensive framework for dementia policy across Australia. The Action Plan outlines a strategic approach to improving the lives and care of people living with dementia, ensuring coordinated efforts across all levels of government.

Annual activity reporting provides information about how jurisdictions are implementing the Action Plan. This first report provides an outline of activity underway aligned to the agreed national priority actions for the first 3 years. The Collective Priority Framework identifies these as:

- Action 3: Empower individuals and communities to minimise risk where they can, and delay onset and progression
- Action 4: Improve dementia diagnosis and post-diagnostic care and support
- Action 8: Improve dementia data, maximise the impact of dementia research and promote innovation.

Sub-actions are included for the priority actions in each report to reflect relevance to work underway. Reported activity may contribute wholly or in part to these sub-actions. Some activities may span more than one high-level action.

Annual reports also provide an opportunity to share information on activities underway for any actions in the Action Plan.

Future reports will provide updates on work in progress, new dementia-related initiatives or changes to existing policies and programs.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) will report on key progress indicators to show how the Action Plan is making a difference to improve outcomes for people living with dementia. This will be publicly tracked and reported through the [National Dementia Action Plan indicators dashboard](#) on the AIHW website.

Activity reporting templates for national priority actions

ACTIVITY REPORTING – State/Territory	
<p>Action 3 – Empower individuals and communities to minimise risk where they can, and delay onset and progression.</p> <p>3 – The Tasmanian Department of Health and University of Tasmania have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which forms a joint commitment to continued collaboration to improve health outcomes for Tasmanians – including health outcomes relating to dementia.</p>	
<p>Rationale for sub-action focus areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia risk is modifiable • Early action can delay onset • Slowing progressions • Shift focus to prevention and wellbeing
<p>Work underway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on workforce development, and promoting learning and training opportunities for Tasmanian Department of Health staff at UTAS
<p>Achievements and insights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) • ISLAND Project (Island Study Linking Ageing and Neurodegenerative Disease)
<p>Strategic collaboration and partnerships</p>	<p>Tasmanian Department of Health and University of Tasmania</p>

ACTIVITY REPORTING – State/Territory

Action 4 – Improve dementia diagnosis and post-diagnostic care and support.

4 - THS support Wicking Island Clinic to enable early diagnosis of dementia

Rationale for sub-action focus areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia risk is modifiable • Early action can delay onset • Slowing progressions
Work underway	<p>Island Clinic THS support Wicking to support early diagnosis of dementia</p>
Achievements and insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Diagnosis: 98.5% of patients receive a diagnosis and management plan on the very same day. [1] • Decreased Wait Times: Same-day diagnosis occurs in an average of 78 days, compared to the national average of 133 days. [1] • Equitable Access: One-third of patients assessed are from rural and remote areas, overcoming health inequalities (compared to only 10% of the broader population). [1, 2] • Research Integration: Patients gain access to clinical trials, cutting-edge blood biomarkers, and the latest diagnostic technologies (e.g., I-MED Radiology partnerships and the TAS Test)
Strategic collaboration and partnerships	<p>The Department of Health works closely with UTAS through the Wicking Foundation</p>

ACTIVITY REPORTING – State/Territory

Action 8 – Improve dementia data, maximise the impact of dementia research and promote innovation.

Relevant sub actions:

8 – Collection of data relating to Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program and delayed discharge of older patients

Rationale for sub-action focus areas	Quantify the impact of dementia diagnoses on length of stay and RACH placement
Work underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of patient data and LOS
Achievements and insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients living with dementia have longer lengths of stay and face challenges securing permanent placement
Strategic collaboration and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged Care Sector • HACDSP • SDCU

Other activities underway

Governments undertake activities across the breadth of the Action Plan. The table below provides an opportunity to showcase any activities that support the Action Plan’s broader actions, in addition to the identified priority actions.

ACTIVITY REPORTING – State/Territory		
OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY (if applicable)		
NDAP Action(s)/sub-action(s)	Activity	Achievements and Insights
Action 4	Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program	High referral and placement rates,
Action 4	Participating in the Specialist Dementia Care Unit Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasmania currently operates one Specialist Dementia Care Unit, located at Glenview Residential Aged Care Services. Care delivery within Waratah House continues to meet a high standard, supported by strong collaboration between Glenview staff and the Tasmanian Department of Health’s Older Persons Mental Health Services clinicians. The unit provides a safe, structured and therapeutic environment for residents with complex behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, enabling access to specialised care and targeted clinical interventions. This initiative is funded by the Commonwealth Government.
Action 4	Rapid Access Service supporting RACH with management of residents with dementia who are experiencing severe to extreme behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative evaluation feedback shows that RAS provides significant benefits to residents, their families and carers and aged care staff. Outcomes include a reported decrease in carer stress as their loved one can often remain in their place of residence and improved confidence and capability of participating RACHs to manage BPSD.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RAS has provided BPSD management education attended by over 50 RACH staff across the North and North West. These education sessions have also been an important mechanism to avoid inappropriate referrals to the RAS, for example, people who have acute medical conditions that require a hospital admission
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