

National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034

Annual Activity Reporting

First Report (2025) - Victoria



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 – Victoria	
<p>Action 3 – Empower individuals and communities to minimise risk where they can, and delay onset and progression.</p> <p><u>Relevant sub actions -</u></p> <p>3.1 Improve Australians’ awareness of risk factors and preventive actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of developing, delay the onset or slow the progression of dementia. This includes health promotion and prevention programs which support overall health.</p> <p>3.4 Develop targeted strategies and messages for people from diverse communities or at higher risk of developing dementia in partnership with relevant communities. -</p>	
<p>Rationale for sub-action focus areas</p>	<p>Rationale for sub-action focus areas:</p> <p><i>Victoria’s population health planning approach to monitor risk of dementia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victorian Department of Health (department) addresses dementia risk reduction through population-wide prevention and health promotion policy, supported by monitoring and reporting systems that align with NDAP sub-action 3.1, and complemented by targeted strategies for priority populations in line with sub-action 3.4. • The Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2023–27 (VPHWP) is the State’s legislated public health and prevention framework. It sets direction for a coordinated, whole-of-system approach to improving health and wellbeing across the life course by addressing key modifiable risk factors that contribute to chronic disease, including dementia. By prioritising preventive health and health-sustaining environments, the VPHWP supports population-level efforts to reduce dementia risk and to delay onset and progression through improved overall health and wellbeing. The VPHWP sets the strategic direction for preventive health action by state and local government, the funded health promotion sector, Local Public Health Units and community partners. • The department monitors and reports against the VPHWP based on the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework. The Framework includes indicators relevant to dementia risk reduction include improvements in physical activity, mental wellbeing, smoking prevalence, harmful alcohol use, healthy eating and social connection across the population.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data against these outcomes is publicly available through the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Dashboard and informs priority setting across the prevention system. • These elements of population health planning and monitoring enable the Victorian Government to track the prevalence of dementia risk factors and plan action to address those factors in the context of other initiatives. • People from diverse communities and backgrounds and those living in regional and rural areas are less likely to receive tailored dementia information. The Victorian Government provides funding for Dementia Australia to work directly with local communities and organisations to raise awareness of dementia and what service and supports are available locally.
<p>Work underway</p>	<p>Population wide prevention and awareness (NDAP sub action 3.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing implementation of the <i>Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–27</i> through state and local government, the funded health promotion sector, Local Public Health Units and community health services, addressing modifiable risk factors associated with dementia across the life course. • Continued population health monitoring and public reporting through the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Dashboard. <p>Targeted approaches for priority populations (NDAP sub action 3.4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments deliver place-based prevention and healthy ageing initiatives through Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans (MPHWPs) embedding prevention, healthy ageing and equity considerations into local decision-making. • In 2024, Council of the Ageing Victoria, in partnership with the Municipal Association of Victoria, developed Local government planning for healthy ageing to support councils to strengthen social participation, inclusion and wellbeing for older people. • Through Victorian Government funding, Dementia Australia established Diverse Community Brain Hubs in 2024-25. These aim to increase dementia awareness and understanding to people from culturally and linguistically diverse and First Nations communities across Victoria. Dementia Australia works directly with community groups and organisations to deliver culturally safe and informed activities in relation to dementia. This includes developing materials and translating information specific to the cultural group. • Women experience a higher prevalence of dementia, particularly Alzheimer’s disease as the common form, than men, with gender-specific biological, social and structural factors influencing risk, progression and lived experience. • Through the Department of Health Women’s Health and Wellbeing Program, the Victorian Government supports women’s health services to deliver

	community-based health promotion and education activities focused on chronic disease prevention, healthy ageing and wellbeing.
Achievements and insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025, across Victoria, Dementia Australia delivered over 1600 hours of regional community awareness, education and local capacity building. • 5 Diverse Community Brain Hubs were delivered to over 540 individuals, delivering sessions to Chinese, Filipino, Macedonian, First Nations and Egyptian community groups. This also included developing written materials and presentations into four languages to support this work. Participants identified a significant uplift in their understanding of dementia, navigating available services and confidence with engaging with support pathways. • Dementia Australia will deliver 20 Diverse Community Brain Hubs by June 2028. • During 2025-26, women’s health services within the Women’s Health Services Network delivered tailored, in-language community workshops for CALD women. These workshops address a range of chronic disease prevention and healthy ageing topics, with dementia included as a specific area of focus. Activities aimed to improve awareness of dementia risk factors, reduce stigma, and support early help-seeking within communities that may face language, cultural or access barriers.
Strategic collaboration and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Health supports Dementia Australia to deliver the Diverse Culture Brain Hubs and works with local government to deliver on the priorities in the VPHWP.

ACTIVITY REPORTING – State/Territory

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

Relevant sub actions:

4.3. Clarify pathways for dementia screening, assessment and diagnosis across the country, including identification of best practice

4.4 Increase the capacity and reach of memory clinics and review the funding model

<p>Rationale for sub-action focus areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely diagnosis of dementia delivers significant benefits, including enabling personalised planning for future care, as well as legal and financial decision-making. It facilitates access to treatments and services that can help manage symptoms and improve quality of life. • Victorian operates 19 public Cognitive Dementia and Memory Services (CDAMS) in metropolitan and regional health services with the services collectively seeing over 6,000 people in 2025. • Demand is high and there can be significantly long waits to access CDAMS. CDAMS data reported to the Department of Health identifies long waits for patients to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the first face to face CDAMS clinic appointment ○ receive a diagnosis ○ receive post diagnosis support
<p>Work underway</p>	<p>Funding for Victorian Memory services to improve timeliness of dementia diagnosis (NDAP sub action 4.4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Health is providing one-off funding of \$1.4 million to health services operating a CDAMS to identify and implement short term changes or develop longer term plans that address local factors contributing to long wait times for patients accessing a CDAMS, receiving a diagnosis or receiving post diagnosis support. <p>General Practice Innovations Grants Program (NDAP sub action 4.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Practice Innovation Grant Program (the program) is an initiative funded through the 2024-25 Victorian State Budget. It provides one-off grants to general practices to implement a Model of Care to identify and proactively manage their patients with dementia and mild cognitive impairment. • The Model of Care focuses on 4 key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ using patient management software to proactively identify and assess patients at risk of dementia or mild cognitive impairment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ building general practice staff knowledge and confidence through a training and learning network ○ improving capability in accordance with accepted clinical practice guidelines and principles of care for people with dementia ○ provide multidisciplinary care by using a team-based and collaborative approach to care, particularly between general practitioners and practice nurses. ● The model of care for the grants program was co-designed with general practice stakeholders as well as clinicians with specialist expertise and families and carers of people with dementia.
<p>Achievements and insights</p>	<p>Funding for Victorian Memory services to improve timeliness of dementia diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following consultations, 18 health services have developed plans to implement actions based on local need. A final report will be provided to the Department in July 2026 on what was done and what was achieved in terms of reducing lengthy wait times for people and to identify longer term changes to improve access. <p>General Practice Innovations Grants Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An Expression of Interest process will be undertaken in 2026, with 212 grants to be distributed to general practices statewide to implement the model of care.
<p>Strategic collaboration and partnerships</p>	<p>Funding for Victorian Memory services to improve timeliness of dementia diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Department of Health worked directly with Victorian public health services to identify and develop proposals for how they would use the funding to address identified lengthy waits in the patient's dementia journey in their CDAMS. <p>General Practice Innovations Grants Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To develop model of care the Department of Health engaged with general practice stakeholders, clinicians with specialist expertise and families and carers of people with dementia. A Learning Network to support general practice deliver the model of care will draw on existing resources from Dementia Training Australia and be delivered by Western Victoria Primary Health Network.

ACTIVITY REPORTING – State/Territory

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

Relevant sub actions:

8.1 Encourage investment in research, innovation and research translation on prevention, risk reduction, diagnosis, treatments (including a cure), holistic care and management for all types of dementia.

Rationale for sub-action focus areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a global health priority, supporting research focused on making dementia preventable and treatable is a national priority. Australia has world leading research capabilities which has seen significant advances in early dementia detection and treatments.
Work underway	<p>Investing in research (NDAP sub action 8.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Government supports a range of research organisations who are working to improve the detection, treatment and management of dementia, including seeking a cure for this disease. In 2024/25, the Florey was provided funding to support its dementia research work. Located in Melbourne, the Florey is a recognised leader in brain research on a range of neurological and psychiatric conditions, including a focus on dementia.
Achievements and insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Florey utilised funding from the Victorian Government to focus on four key aims of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a biomarker to diagnose dementia Discover cause of dementia Find new medications to treat dementia Improve the management of dementia
Strategic collaboration and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Health works with the Florey to support its research, including a focus on dementia.

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 – Victoria		
OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY (if applicable)		
NDAP Action(s)/sub-action(s)	Activity	Achievements and Insights
<p>2.1 Expand awareness about dementia, including lived experience storytelling, to improve dementia understanding across the Australian population.</p> <p>2.2 Partner with people living with dementia and their carers to develop, co-design, test and tailor dementia related communications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by the Victorian Government, Dementia Australia is building the capacity of Victorians to access dementia specific information, especially for those from diverse cultural groups and amplify the voices of those living with dementia through advocacy, research, service and program design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2025, Dementia Australia supported 162 Victorian to participate in 56 advocacy activities to ensure that the voices of people with lived experience of dementia were represented in service design, policy development and research activities. Nearly 50% of advocates were from rural or remote communities and diverse groups, such as CALD, First Nation and LGBT+.
<p>6.2 Support carers and families to improve their knowledge of dementia and its progression through access to education and training, including targeted information for carers from First Nations, CALD and other diverse communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by the Victorian Government, Dementia Australia provide individual and family support services that deliver personalised information, guidance and support strategies to individuals, their carers and families. In addition, funding supports Dementia Australia to deliver group counselling and support service for carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From January to December 2025, over 1700 individuals received individualised and family support. 22 counselling and support groups were facilitated by Dementia Australia with over 700 carers attending these sessions. With Dementia Australia delivering more group sessions in regional areas, a third of participants are now from regional Victoria

		compared to a fifth in the previous year.
6.3 Improve respite options that better meet the needs of people living with dementia and their carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Government continues to invest more than \$22.4 million each year in the Support for Carers Program, and a further \$9.5 million each year to deliver Additional Respite for Carers until 30 June 2027. The programs deliver tailored and flexible respite and support to carers across Victoria based their individual needs and circumstances. This could include practical help at home, peer support, a respite break to undertake paid employment or study, or support to attend medical appointments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined, the Victorian Government’s carer programs are continuing to provide more than 261,000 hours of respite and support to unpaid Victorian carers annually to improve their health and wellbeing and support them in their care role. In 2024-25, 64 of 86 providers indicated they had provided supports to carers of people with dementia.
7.1 Strengthen dementia training, including embedding a dementia focus within core competencies, improve training pathways and provide mentoring and supervision opportunities for health, aged care, disability support and other workforces, including carers and volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key focus of the Victorian government support provided to Dementia Australia has been on building the capacity of the clinical workforce to deliver evidence-based dementia care, especially for those working in the hospital sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia Australia has an established expertise in delivering dementia education and training. In 2025, it delivered 60 sessions of training to healthcare professionals working in a number of Victoria’s public hospitals. In an Australian first, Dementia Australia was supported to develop an allied health dementia competency course with the inaugural group of allied health clinicians completing the 10-week course in 2025.