

# National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034

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## **Annual Activity Reporting**

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First Report (2025) – Western Australia



# 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><b>Action 3 – Empower individuals and communities to minimise risk where they can, and delay onset and progression.</b></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>3.2 Promote the brain health benefits of people regularly and safely participating in sports, exercise and movement.</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>	
<b>Rationale for sub-action focus areas</b>	<p>Focus has been on building partnerships with stakeholders and consumers, consulting with these groups to understand the needs and perspectives in Western Australia (WA), and consulting on appropriate messaging and messaging delivery, and to align with the development of a Healthy Ageing strategy and to align with the development of WA’s State Dementia Action Plan (SDAP).</p>
<b>Work underway</b>	<p><b>Sub action 3.1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WA Department of Health supports Australians’ awareness of risk factors and preventative actions through its preventative health programs and partnerships. The promotion of healthy lifestyles, such as good nutrition and sufficient physical activity, plays a fundamental role in preventing chronic disease and improving overall health and wellbeing. The WA Department of Health’s health promotion initiatives specifically focus on achieving a population-level impact to address the leading modifiable risk factors associated with the development of chronic diseases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub action 3.2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, The WA Department of Health has a strong preventative health commitment to physical activity and active living. The Department of Health funds numerous health promotion programs designed to increase participation in physical activity, including <i>LiveLighter</i>®, <i>Better Health Program</i> and <i>Stay on Your Feet</i>®. <i>Stay on Your Feet</i>® emphasises the role of physical activity in maintaining cognitive and brain health. While the <i>Better Health Program</i> and <i>LiveLighter</i>® address dementia risk factors, brain health is not currently an explicit link.</li> <li>The State Government supports this sub-action through the implementation of An Age-friendly WA: State Seniors Strategy. Coordinated by the Department of</li> </ul>

	<p>Communities, eleven WA Government Agencies contribute to delivering the State Seniors Strategy. This includes providing and support and information seniors need to maintain their wellbeing, including programs focused on falls prevention, physical activity, and improving the accessibility of parks (Reference WA Seniors Strategy Actions: 1.3.1, 1.3.3, 2.2.1, 3.2.5).</p> <p><b>Sub action 3.4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This sub-action is also supported through the State Seniors Strategy, which promotes the development of decision-making information for older Aboriginal people. (Reference WA Seniors Strategy Actions: 3.1.6).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Achievements and insights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning dementia risk reduction and brain health messaging with broader chronic conditions messaging will be the focus moving forward. Extensive community consultation is ongoing to inform the development of appropriate public messaging, including for priority population groups.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic collaboration and partnerships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA Department of Health is partnering with a range of organisations to progress consistent public messaging around risk reduction, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Department of Communities.</li> <li>○ Health Service Providers (HSP).</li> <li>○ Non-Government Organisations (NGO).</li> <li>○ Consumers and carers.</li> <li>○ Curtin University.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 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.
- 4.5 Embed memory clinics in targeted Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to support improved access, diagnosis and care for First Nations people.
- 4.6 Develop and promote culturally appropriate cognitive assessment tools in partnership with diverse communities and experts, and support training for clinicians to use these tools.
- 4.7 Improve support, care coordination and planning for people living with dementia and their carers following a dementia diagnosis, including models for First Nations, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) and other diverse communities.

<b>Rationale for sub-action focus areas</b>	Focus has been on building partnerships with stakeholders and consumers, consulting with these groups to understand the needs and perspectives in WA, and consulting on appropriate messaging and messaging delivery, and to align with the development of WA's SDAP, particularly service navigation.
<b>Work underway</b>	<p><b>Sub Action 4.3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA Health delivers a specialist statewide, community based mental health service that provides specialist consultation, assessments and support to people who have, or may have, cognitive impairment or neurological conditions. This includes general diagnostic and assessment for adults of all ages, assessment and clinical management younger onset dementia and genetic testing for people with a family history of neurodegenerative disorders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub Action 4.4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA Health has undertaken a review of public hospital memory clinics and capabilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub Action 4.5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA Health has conducted pilot clinics at two metropolitan ACCHOs to support improved access diagnosis and care for First Nations people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub Action 4.6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kimberley Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (KICA) is a validated cognitive screening tool for older Aboriginal Australians living in rural and remote areas. The tool was developed by the University of Western Australia and has been adapted for</li> </ul>

	<p>use with Torres Strait Islander people and for Aboriginal people living in urban and regional areas.</p> <p><b>Sub Action 4.7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Senior Strategy aims to support older people to live independently. (Reference WA Seniors Strategy Actions: 1.2.1).</li> <li>• The Department of Communities support this sub-action through the State Seniors Strategy, including supporting initiatives to support older people to live at home independently. Under the State Seniors Strategy, the Department of Communities also aiming to establish baseline data for aged care by location and cultural background to identify service gaps (Reference WA Seniors Strategy Actions: 1.2.1).</li> <li>• Under the State Seniors Strategy, the Mental Health Commission have developed an Older Person Mental Health Model of Service to improve the mental health outcomes for older people of WA by informing service model design and delivery, commissioning decisions and setting expectations for service quality for older people.</li> <li>• The WA Mental Health Commission funds the Dementia Navigation Service in the Great Southern region, which has a significant ageing population. This service assists people following a dementia diagnosis to access support and navigate the care system.</li> <li>• The WA Mental Health Commission continues to advocate for additional Specialist Dementia Care Units through the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and oversees the clinical in-reach into the current Specialist Dementia services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Achievements and insights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation activities have identified this area as a significant priority for WA. Within this the focus will include equitable access to services and supports for priority population groups including Aboriginal people, CaLD people, people experiencing homelessness, people living with a disability, gender and sexually diverse people and people living in regional and remote areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic collaboration and partnerships</b></p>	<p>WA Department of Health is partnering with a range of organisations to improve dementia diagnosis and post diagnostic care and support, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSPs.</li> <li>• NGOs.</li> <li>• ACCHOs.</li> <li>• WA Primary Health Alliance.</li> <li>• Royal Australian College of General Practitioners – WA.</li> <li>• Consumers and carers.</li> </ul>

## 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.
- 8.4 Promote whole-of-system approaches to improve dementia data, (e.g. through clinical quality registries).

<b>Rationale for sub-action focus areas</b>	Utilising existing networks and partnerships to strengthen, expand and align existing data collection and research programs of work, and to scope out what research and data collection programs of work are currently underway that we were not previously aware of.
<b>Work underway</b>	<p><b>Sub Action 8.1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Health provides a range of programs through the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund that researchers and innovators focussing on dementia can apply for. A range of universities and research institutes in WA are also currently focussing on dementia research, including the University of Western Australia, Curtin University, Edith Cowan University and Murdoch University.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub Action 8.4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A dementia and delirium dashboard has been developed at a local site in WA. Potential expansion of this as a state-wide dashboard is being explored.</li> </ul>
<b>Achievements and insights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilising and expanding existing programs and initiatives is providing a launch pad for developments in data collection and innovation.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic collaboration and partnerships</b>	WA Department of Health is partnering with a range of organisations to progress data collection, investment in research, research translation and innovation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Health Research Innovation fund.</li> <li>HSPs.</li> <li>WA Universities.</li> <li>Consumers and carers.</li> </ul>

## 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
<p>Action 3, sub action 3.3</p> <p>Action 5, sub actions 5.1, 5.4 and 5.5</p> <p>Action 7, sub action 7.4</p>	<p>A series of activities were run in September 2025 to support Dementia Action Week, including a health professional webinar series, website updates and a newsletter.</p>	<p>The webinars featured guest speakers and covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New treatments for dementia.</li> <li>• WA dementia policy and programs.</li> <li>• Managing behaviour and psychological symptoms of dementia.</li> <li>• Preserving cognition and measuring dementia risk.</li> </ul> <p>In total, over 370 people attended the webinars. Attendees were provided with the opportunity for continuous professional development points.</p>
<p>Action 1, sub action 1.1</p> <p>Action 2, sub action 2.2</p> <p>Action 6, sub action 6.1</p>	<p>Extensive consultation to inform the development of a SDAP, including meetings with key partners and internal working groups, stakeholder and consumer forums and stakeholder and consumer surveys.</p>	<p>Consultation activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject matter expert advisory groups.</li> <li>• Stakeholder forum and survey.</li> <li>• Consumer forum and survey.</li> </ul> <p>Findings will inform the development of the SDAP and also inform updates to current service delivery.</p>