



Alzheimer's
Australia WA Ltd
Living with dementia



In Dementia Care...

Is Australia the Lucky Country?

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Alzheimer Europe Conference
Luxembourg
October 2010

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Alzheimer's Australia (1999)

- Poor understanding of dementia
- Low community awareness
- Relatively little government support





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Dawning of the 21st Century

- Recognition of an ageing Australia
- Reign of the **ECONOMIC RATIONALIST**





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2003

- “The Dementia Epidemic: Economic Impact and Positive Solutions for Australia”





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The Epidemic

- 162,000 Australians
- 6,600 under 65yo





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500,000 by 2040

= 2.3% of the population





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2002 Costs to Australia

- AUD\$ 6.6 billion
- 1% GDP → 3% by 2050





“Disability Burden”

2002

1. Depression
2. Dementia

2016

1. Dementia
2. Depression





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Solutions

1. Pharmacotherapy
2. Support Programs
3. Research





Annual Care Costs 2002

- Home Based Care AUD\$ 2,554 per person
- Residential Care AUD\$ 28,796 per person





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Research

- AUD\$ 1 for AUD\$ 342 of cost





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2005

- Dementia: National Health Priority





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Focus

- Care
- Education
- Research





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2009

“Keeping Dementia Front of Mind: Incidence and Prevalence
2009 – 2050”





Prevalence

- 2002 162,000
- 2009 245,400 (+51%)
- 2030 591,530 (+265%)
- 2050 1,130,690 (+598%)





Health System Expenditure: Dementia

- 2002 – 2003 AUD\$ 3.85 billion
- 2032 – 2033 AUD\$ 17.84 billion
 (+ 363%)

Excludes: Community Aged Care
Dementia-Specific Care Programmes



Prevention: Physical Activity

Physical inactivity from
70% to 50%
=
estimated reduction in dementia cases
5.7%



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Currently

NO FUNDING FOR PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES





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Research (2007 – 2009)

Australia combined research funding:

- Dementia AUD\$ 25 million
- Cancer AUD\$ 150 million





What does all this mean?

Australia

- First country to declare dementia as a “national health priority” but ...
 - Does not have a national strategy for dementia
- Injected significant funding in 2005 but ...
 - Funding has not kept pace with growth of the problem
- Has increased its funding for research but ...
 - Has a disproportionate investment in dementia research as compared to other chronic conditions



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Our Strategy

- More targeted lobbying campaign based around politicians and their electorates, local authorities and health regions



Thank you

