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Dementia
Enquiry in to Dementia
Submission
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Summary

This submission deals with some simple suggestions for action with respect to testing regimes.

Submission:

The matters of the nature of the various cognitive diseases, test availability and veracity are well covered elsewhere .

Therefore herewith some comments in general in the hope that one or two may be of interest..

1. As most forms of cognitive decline can be arrested once detected, pre emptive action is likely to be most cost effective for the national health system, cost wise.
2. Such testing might be considered as compulsory for say driving license renewal, where, if detected, then proof of treatment would be required before a license was re-issued. (Two stage test, simple and referral)

3. Treatment should be free of charge to pensioners and/or means tested
4. The nation should understand that it exists for the betterment of its citizens lives, and if a couple of decades or so of higher budget allocations, in maintaining the quality of life of our ageing population, (until another population profile exerts itself) is to be carried, then this is an ethical and laudable aim.
5. With the rapid development of potential genetic engineering based cures, any national programmes should be strategized with a 'step back' option within them, so as to optimise the use of funds, should the current promises turn into reality sooner than expected.
6. If it is possible a legislative bi partisan approach from major political parties would help.
7. A study of the effect of dementia on spouses/carers should be undertaken if not already effected. This could lead to useful changes in their ability to cope with such for longer.
8. A national awareness programme, or say full on approach via Centrelinks magazine (approx 4 million distribution to all pensioners), should be initiated so as to educate people as to the signs to look for, as a first step in seeking help or clarification of possible symptoms.
9. Any dementia programme might also be tied in with testing for early lung cancer and some other diseases that may be halted. If so bundled this would also camouflage the sensitivity of the aged to a direct dementia test.

Friday, March 30, 2012