

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000084

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** National Dementia Strategy

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 128

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Senator POLLEY: I will ask a very quick question in relation to the national dementia strategy. Minister Wyatt stated in parliament on 16 February of this year that the government announced the first national strategy for dementia in 2015. Because there is no reference of it anywhere, can you provide a copy of this strategy?

Dr McCarthy: Minister Wyatt was referring to the Council of Australian Governments' national framework on dementia, which I think we have discussed in this forum before.

Senator POLLEY: Can you table the implementation strategy for that minister's reference please?

**Answer:**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council agreed to the *National Framework for Action on Dementia 2015-2019* (the Framework) in August 2015. The Framework was commissioned by the Dementia Working Group, a cross jurisdictional group comprising representatives from Commonwealth, state and territory governments. It builds upon the previous *National Framework for Action on Dementia 2006-2010*.

The Framework is a guiding document for coordinated policy in regards to people with dementia and their carers. It supports ongoing action in dementia care for governments, service providers, peak bodies and the broader community, to work together to create accessible, seamless pathways to care in order to make a positive difference in the lives of people with dementia, their carers and families.

A copy of the Framework is available on the Department of Health website at:

[https://agedcare.health.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1426/f/documents/09\\_2015/national-framework-for-action-on-dementia-2015-2019.pdf](https://agedcare.health.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1426/f/documents/09_2015/national-framework-for-action-on-dementia-2015-2019.pdf)

At its meeting of 8 May 2015, the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee, a committee under the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC), determined that an AHMAC endorsed implementation plan would not be developed, leaving it to individual jurisdictions to implement the framework based on local priorities. The Department of Health has focused a range of funding initiatives since 2015 on the first six priority action areas and the National Health and Medical Research Council funds many activities which support the Framework's final priority action area.