



Australian Government

Department of Health

Government Response to Dementia Forum Report

The first Ministerial Dementia Forum, *Dementia Care - Core Business for Aged Care* was held on 11 September 2014. A Forum Options Report was provided by the Forum Working Group to the Government on 31 October 2014, and publicly released on 16 December 2014 following consultation with the Aged Care Sector Committee.

The Government will address these as follows:

- A - Increased consumer engagement by facilitating greater involvement in consultation processes for people with dementia
The Government recognises the need for input from people with dementia in informing their care and supports. Increased opportunities for greater involvement and consultation for people with dementia will be afforded through mechanisms like the annual Ministerial Dementia Forum.
Progress - ongoing. While a number of people with dementia and carers are attending the 2015 Forum, this is an ongoing priority for the Government.
- B - Analyse, consolidate and better align the suite of current dementia initiatives
The Analysis of Dementia Programmes will consider current programmes and their alignment whilst also investigating their relationship to the new SBRT initiative.
Progress – completed. The Analysis Report is attached and will be discussed at the Forum.
- C - Optimise the role, cohesiveness and coordination of the Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services and Dementia Training Study Centres
Again this is being considered through the Analysis of Dementia Programmes and will look to ensure stronger and more cohesive programmes to support the increasing needs for people with dementia.
Progress - ongoing. The national coordinator of each programme is now participating in the other's monthly tele-conference. The two programmes are now also having combined bi-annual meetings.
- D - Pilot the use of teams of health professionals to assist aged care providers address the needs of people with severe BPSD
This is being addressed through the development and implementation of Severe Behaviour Response Teams.

Progress - completed. Phase 1 of the Severe Behaviour Response Teams has commenced.

- E - Introduce specialised units to care for people with severe BPSD
This is a longer term recommendation which needs to be examined in conjunction with State and Territory responsibilities in relation to psychogeriatric care.
Progress - ongoing. Following an approach from one State Government, the Commonwealth is assisting them with a tender process for specialised units. The Commonwealth is happy to discuss specialised units with other States/Territories.
- F - Increase access to rehabilitation and transitional accommodation for people with dementia
The Government will examine how increased access can be addressed through the Guidelines for the Transition Care Programme.
Progress - ongoing. The Government has announced a new Restorative Care Programme, with the guidelines currently being developed. Following consultation with Alzheimer's Australia and the States/Territories, the Transition Care Programme Guidelines are being updated to increase the emphasis on assisting people with dementia. These will be released shortly. The Department is also intending to hold a Forum with ACATs to discuss how they may be able to assist people with dementia to access the Transition Care Programme.
- G - Introduce aged care quality of life indicators
The Government is already developing a national voluntary Quality Indicators Programme for residential aged care. A quality of life/consumer experience measure is currently being developed in consultation with quality indicator experts and a National Aged Care Alliance Reference Group. It is anticipated that they will be piloted in 2015.
Progress - ongoing. A pilot is expected to commence next year.
- H - Use funding grants to pilot and evaluate new service delivery models or initiatives.
Consideration of new service delivery models and initiatives can be addressed through the existing Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grant funding process.
Progress - ongoing. The new Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund has been announced with a greater emphasis on dementia.