

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

2.42 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth create a new Medicare item number that encourages General Practitioners, registered psychologists or other relevant accredited professionals, to undertake longer consultations with a patient and at least one family member or carer where the patient has presented with indications of dementia.

Recommendation 2

3.39 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth consider increasing funding for the Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program in order to provide support to all people living with dementia. The increased funding should also ensure that accurate data is collected for evaluation purposes.

Recommendation 3

3.40 The committee recommends that each State and Territory develop dementia training facilities similar to the Perc Walkley Dementia Learning Centre in Victoria.

Recommendation 4

3.53 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth encourage relevant professional organisations, such as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, to ensure that patients diagnosed with dementia and their carers are informed by health professionals of the dementia supports available and how to access them.

Recommendation 5

3.95 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth facilitate and potentially fund the establishment of dementia-specific respite facilities, including in regional and remote areas.

Recommendation 6

3.96 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth, in consultation with industry, develop guidelines regarding dementia-specific respite facilities that can effectively manage BPSD.

Recommendation 7

3.97 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth explore options for improving the provision of respite in rural and remote areas.

Recommendation 8

4.79 The committee recommends that the accreditation standards for Residential Aged Care Facilities include requirements for dementia-friendly design principles.

Recommendation 9

4.80 The committee recommends that the accreditation standards for Residential Aged Care Facilities reflect a better balance between clinical and quality-of-life outcomes.

Recommendation 10

5.44 The committee recommends that a phased program of accredited training in dementia and the management of Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) be required for all employees of Residential Aged Care Facilities.

Recommendation 11

5.45 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth take a proactive stance in highlighting the importance of staff training in dementia care, and develop linkages between care and education providers.

Recommendation 12

6.19 The committee recommends that the use of antipsychotic medication should be reviewed by the prescribing doctor after the first three months to assess the ongoing need.

Recommendation 13

6.20 The committee recommends that residential aged care facilities, as part of their existing Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency annual audit process, report:

- circumstances where an individual has been prescribed antipsychotic medication for more than six months, together with the reasons for and any steps taken to minimise that use; and**
- general usage patterns of antipsychotic medications in each facility.**

Recommendation 14

6.31 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth develop, in consultation with dementia advocates and service providers, guidelines for the recording and reporting on the use of all forms of restraints in residential facilities.

Recommendation 15

6.32 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth collect and report:

- the number of residents in aged care and acute care facilities with a diagnosis of dementia;
- the number of these residents who are taking, or have taken, antipsychotic medication;
- the number of instances where a patient has been prescribed multiple anti-psychotic medications;
- the reason the medication was prescribed; and
- the average duration of a course of prescribed antipsychotics.

Recommendation 16

6.48 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth undertake an information program for doctors and residential aged care facilities regarding the guidelines *Responding to Issues of Restraint in Aged Care in Residential Care*.

Recommendation 17

7.29 The committee recommends that a review of the adequacy of respite facilities for Younger Onset Dementia patients be carried out urgently.

Recommendation 18

7.30 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth fund the development of a pilot Younger Onset Dementia specific respite facility at either the Barwon or Hunter area National Disability Insurance Scheme trial sites.

