



Additional information to our presentation at the hearing on Wednesday 1st August 2012- Inquiry into Dementia: Early diagnosis and intervention.

Blue Care would like to thank the House of Representatives for allowing us to present information about the need for early diagnosis and intervention for people who have dementia. We would also like to raise some additional information for your consideration that we omitted from our submission and questioning.

1. The role of community staff is of utmost importance, not only to deliver care, foster independence and assist the person to continue to live in their own home but as a coordinator of care with case management responsibilities. Often it is the regular attendance of community services that is the first support. This enables the person living with dementia and their family to be supported across all stages of dementia from early diagnosis through to end of life support and care.
- 2 Blue Care believes that education for staff is crucial to become more knowledgeable about dementia and to acquire new skills to improve the quality of life for the person living with dementia and their carer. Whilst we provide education in a number of ways across Blue Care we would like to recommend other ways of educating the work force such as 'on the job' mentoring and role modelling. This is not always able to be achieved because of the direct cost involved in educating staff to a 'higher' level and providing the additional hours necessary. However it should be recognised that it is often the most successful way for the workforce to gain new skills and knowledge and meet the outcomes of the education.