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The Chairperson
House of Representatives

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Submission No. 094
(Dementia)
Date: 31/05/2012

Re: Parliamentary Enquiry into Dementia – Early Diagnosis and Intervention

Dear Sir/ Madam

My apologies for this being a late submission, but I hope it will be accepted.

There is no doubt Dementia is going to become one of the big issues for Westernised and developing societies in the next decade. There is a general concept of early diagnosis and certainly that is becoming available by technology. The Committee will hear many representations on that and the benefits.

I would urge the Committee to look into the “what happens” after the early diagnosis is made. To open that Pandora’s Box without adequate provision of services, is wrong.

For instance in Townsville, we expect to be seeing at least 2000 people with active Dementia and therefore more with early dementia. So let’s say we have 5000 people who will be in a Dementia Management Program. Currently there are no services available for a person to receive that coordinated support. A business case for a Dementia Treatment and Advisory Service based on a continuous care (palliative care) model, which was presented to Queensland Health from the last 2 financial years, has not received support.

I urge the Committee to consider not just the concept of early diagnosis, but the implication for ongoing care if there is inadequate funding of both Physical and Psychological Support Services.

Regards
Yours faithfully

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