

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-150

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA

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Senator Adams asked:

There was a younger onset dementia summit held at Parliament House in 2009. Since that summit, what action has the Government taken to ensure that there is age-appropriate services for younger people with dementia?

Answer:

The Australian Government provides support for programs aimed at improving the care and support available to people with dementia, including support for research and innovations, prevention, early intervention programs and support for training and education. These programs and services are available to all people living with dementia, regardless of age.

Programs aimed at supporting people with dementia and their carers include: support for prevention and early intervention through the National Dementia Support Program and Dementia Community Support Grants; support of improved care through Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services and Dementia Training Study Centres; and training and education through the Dementia Education and Training for Carers program and Dementia Care Essentials.

These programs include services specifically designed to incorporate the needs of people with younger onset dementia.

A range of Dementia Community Support Grant projects have been funded for people with younger onset dementia including: establishment of a community based social club, including counselling for younger people with dementia and outreach to remote and rural areas; the establishment of a men's group linked with existing Men's Shed activities; public workshops and displays involving artistic processes to raise awareness about the capacity of people with younger onset dementia; and seminars, support, linkages and partnerships for people with younger onset dementia and their carers.

The Australian Government is also providing significant funding for dementia research, including through the Dementia Research Grants Program and the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres, including research projects regarding younger onset dementia.

The Australian Government also funds Dementia Training Study Centre's to increase knowledge of the dementia care workforce and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge into practice. This includes a priority area of younger onset dementia.

The Australian Government also provides support for the National Dementia Support Program for services such as the National Dementia Helpline, early intervention programs, counselling and support, the Living with Memory Loss Program, and special support services specifically aimed at enhancing quality of life for people with dementia, regardless of age.

Part of this funding is used to raise the profile of dementia, including younger onset dementia, and to provide advice to the community and aged care sectors on how to improve access to appropriate quality services for all.