



CATHOLIC HEALTH
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

20 JUNE 2016

Labor's plan for those living with dementia welcomed

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) welcomes the Labor Party's commitment to allocate \$25 million through the development of a National Dementia Strategy to address the increasing incidence of dementia.

Catholic Health Australia's CEO, Suzanne Greenwood, said today that "ensuring a coordinated national approach will assist in caring for and improving the quality of life of the increasing number of people living with dementia."

"With the number expected to grow, the demands on the health and aged care systems will also grow and it is important that the nation is able to deal with the future challenges for health and aged care spending," said Mrs Greenwood.

"The plan to see more communities embracing a dementia-friendly approach will better enable people with dementia and their informal carers to remain living in the community and avoid premature entry into residential aged care."

"Dementia is the leading reason people need to enter residential aged care with 50 to 60% of current residents having that diagnosis," said Mrs Greenwood.

"The proposal to trial and evaluate consumer-led models of respite in two areas of high need also has the potential to allow more people with dementia and their carers to continue to remain at home with the support of home care packages," added Mrs Greenwood.

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Catholic Health Australia represents Australia's largest non-government grouping of hospitals, aged and community care services, providing approximately 10 per cent of hospital and aged care services in Australia, including around 30 per cent of private hospital care as well as approximately 5 per cent of public hospital care.