



## Position paper

# Implementation of the Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2020-2025

**The New Zealand Government must commit to fully fund and implement the Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2020 – 2025 to address the growing dementia mate wareware challenge.**

The **Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2020 – 2025** is the best tool for governments to improve dementia mate wareware support and care.

Fully implementing the Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2020 – 2025 will help reduce the number of people developing dementia mate wareware in the future, the social and financial challenges faced by the country, and the impact of dementia care and support on the health system.



## Background

Around one million New Zealanders will be aged **65 years and over in 2028**. With a rapidly ageing population, the number of people living with dementia mate wareware is also growing at an unprecedented rate. Dementia mate wareware cases will increase by 240 per cent in 30 years, from 70,000 in 2020 to 170,000 in 2050. Health inequities further complicate this picture: the number of people living with dementia mate wareware will increase at a faster rate in Māori, Pacific Peoples, and Asian communities.



The sector-driven Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2020-2025 was developed to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia mate wareware. It was endorsed by Cabinet in 2021 and outlines actions to provide better care and support for people living with this health condition.

In 2017, New Zealand endorsed the **Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025**. This calls on Member states to have national plans to prevent dementia mate wareware and make sure that people living with health condition get the care and support they need to live life with meaning and dignity

### Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan 2020 – 2025

Reduces the number of people with dementia in future

Provides more equitable support and care

Reduces the future health costs associated with dementia