



Position paper

Funding for Alzheimers and Dementia community-based organisations

The New Zealand Government must provide funding of \$127.3 million to Alzheimers and Dementia service organisations.

This funding, provided over three years, will support a new service model that allows these organisations to deliver early and ongoing support services to 37,400 people living with dementia mate wareware and families. It also will reduce the impact of dementia mate wareware on the health system and the economy.



Background

Alzheimer's and Dementia service organisations are the primary source of care and support for people living with dementia. But people with dementia are finding it increasingly challenging to access the services provided by these organisations.

Community-based dementia service organisations do not have the capacity to meet the increasing demand for services because they have been underfunded for decades by successive governments.

Government contributions only cover the operational cost to support 13 per cent of the people living with dementia. As a result, an estimated 30,000 people living with dementia are currently missing out on the help they need.

Government expenditure on dementia support and care has been inadequate. Current funding arrangements through Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora are also inconsistent, creating service gaps and inequities across the system.

Investing in community-based dementia service organisations has the potential to reduce the future cost of dementia by keeping people with this health condition out of hospitals or aged residential care, and reducing pressure on the health system. The national contract funding arrangements should apply to ensure that sustainable and consistent dementia services are available nationwide.

