

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM ALL PANELLISTS

Consolidated audience questions from the Alzheimers NZ pre-election political panel

Long-term, cross-party planning and investment

1. Will your party commit to a long-term, cross-party plan for dementia and aged care, with agreed milestones, public accountability and sustained investment in prevention, diagnosis, care and carer support beyond the three-year electoral cycle? What timeframe and level of investment would your party support?

Rural dementia services

2. Will your party commit to increasing funding for dementia support services in rural and provincial communities so people living with dementia can remain close to home throughout their dementia journey?

Supporting care at home

3. What practical steps will your party take to help families and whānau care safely for a person with dementia at home, including in the later stages, and to address the financial, housing, transport, respite, home-support and healthcare pressures they face?

Implementing the Dementia Action Plan

4. What role and responsibility should the Government have in formally adopting, funding and implementing the Dementia Action Plan, and what specific action would your party take next term to turn recognition of the plan into implementation?

Integrated and dementia-capable health services

5. How will your party ensure that primary, hospital, community and aged-care services are equipped to provide properly integrated, dementia-informed care whenever people living with dementia use the health system?

Residential aged care

6. If your party is part of the Government after the election, what specific actions will it take in its first 100 days to improve access to high-quality residential aged care, including dementia-level care?

Dementia policy commitments

7. When will your party publish its dementia policy or manifesto, and what specific commitments will it contain?

Co-design and participation

8. How will your party ensure that people living with dementia and their care partners and whānau are active partners in designing, implementing and evaluating dementia policy and services, rather than being treated only as recipients of care?

Equity

9. What specific measures will your party take to reduce inequities in dementia prevention, diagnosis, care and support, particularly for Māori, Pacific peoples and people experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage? Will it support the use of ethnicity and other equity measures to track outcomes and hold the system accountable?

International models

10. Which country or region does your party believe offers the most useful model for an integrated, dementia-focused system, and which elements of that model would it seek to introduce in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Access to respite and needs assessment

11. What will your party do to make needs assessments and respite care more accessible, timely and consistent for people living with dementia and their care partners and whānau?

Brain health and dementia risk reduction

12. Will your party commit to a funded, cross-party public-health approach to brain health and dementia risk reduction across the life course, reflecting the evidence on modifiable risk factors? If so, what would it implement next term?

Quality, skills and staffing

13. What will your party do to ensure that health and aged-care professionals have the dementia-specific skills needed to provide safe, compassionate care, particularly in the later stages? Would it support nationally consistent quality standards and minimum staffing ratios for dementia care?

Strengths-based needs assessment

14. Will your party support reform of needs assessment so it includes a strengths-based approach, alongside identifying deficits, and helps people living with dementia maintain their abilities, independence and wellbeing?