



Australian Government

NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research

NNIDR Expert Advisory Panel Meeting
3 June 2018
COMMUNIQUE

The Expert Advisory Panel met in Sydney on 3 June 2018, immediately prior to the Australian Dementia Forum 2018. This Communique updates stakeholders on meeting deliberations across key strategic areas.

Boosting Dementia Research Initiative (BDRI) – Current Status and future priorities

The Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) welcomed the upcoming 7 June launch by the Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, of NNIDR's public report, ['Australia's Boosting Dementia Research Initiative: Report on early outcomes'](#) at the opening of the HammondCare International Dementia Conference, reaching more than 1000 attendees. Members noted this was the first opportunity for the NNIDR to report to the Australian public on the Initiative. The report outlines the spread of investments made across the five priority areas of Prevention, Assessment & Diagnosis, Intervention & Treatment, Living with Dementia, and Care, and uses case studies to highlight examples of research being undertaken and early impacts.

EAP Members also warmly welcomed the 23 April announcement by Minister Wyatt of the outcomes of the *Targeted Call for Research into Dementia in Indigenous Australians* to tackle the growing challenge of Aboriginal dementia. Five projects were awarded funding up to a total of \$14 million. The funded research is aimed at improving dementia detection and treatment for Indigenous Australians, as well as prevention initiatives through clinical trials, analysis and community health approaches.

Members noted the status of current funding rounds, including:

- *Priority Round 3: The National Dementia Network* (up to \$18 million) (to be announced). This is the largest single grant awarded under the Boosting Dementia Research Initiative.
- *Priority Round 4: Joint Call with Europe for Multinational research projects on Health and Social Care for Neurodegenerative Diseases* (up to \$3 million) opened on 8 January 2018. The EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) received 72 Pre-proposals, with 61 proceeding to peer-review. Outcomes are expected to be announced in early October.

The EAP looks forward to the finalisation of EAP initiatives under development, including Dementia Statistics and Epidemiology, and brain banking.

Members noted other initiatives being progressed through special interest groups, and encouraged the hosting of five special interest roundtables side events at the Australian Dementia Forum (ADF) 2018 (4-5 June, Sydney), including on risk reduction and prevention, stem cells and organoids, rehabilitation and safe and effective use of medicines.

Strategic Roadmap Review

Members discussed progress on the annual review of the Strategic Roadmap for Dementia Research and Translation. The review is due for completion by end June 2018 and will set priorities and position the dementia research sector for the next five years.

As advised by the EAP (February 2018), NNIDR took a tailored approach to gathering consumer feedback.

The review included:

- Call for written submissions (16 received)
- Consumer focus groups (4 held, for people living with dementia and for carers/families)
- NNIDR Board and Expert Advisory Panel input, and
- A facilitated meeting with approximately 30 attendees with expertise/interest in dementia research and translation (19 June 2018).

All NNIDR Members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft revised Strategic Roadmap to be discussed by EAP members at their next meeting in August 2018.

Indigenous Forum

Members discussed the high prevalence of dementia in Indigenous communities and the uneven understanding of dementia prevalence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by primary care providers across Australia. The EAP commended the work undertaken by NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellow, Dr Kate Smith (University of Western Australia), towards the development of an Indigenous-specific Roadmap for Dementia Research. Dr Smith will co-chair NNIDR's Indigenous Roundtable Forum with Professor Dawn Bessarab, with the first meeting held in Sydney on 6-7 June 2018. Forum outcomes include: community consultations to inform Indigenous community priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dementia research; a translation plan for existing dementia research; and a framework for ongoing coordination and collaboration for the Indigenous Research effort.

Dementia Care Forum: Consumer Involvement Program

NNIDR's finalised Consumer Involvement Program, with a one-year funded work plan, was well-received by EAP members. The Program has been developed together with Dementia Australia and aims to improve opportunities for consumer involvement in research. The EAP noted the emphasis on consumer involvement in research at ADF2018 (4-5 June) including:

- NNIDR granted five travel awards to consumers to attend ADF2018 and co-present the research they are involved in with their research partners
- Short presentations from people with dementia or carers will be provided throughout the program
- Keynote speaker, Simon Denegri, will present on public involvement in dementia research
- NHMRC Community and Consumer Engagement Committee member and public involvement in research specialist, Anne McKenzie, will lead a pilot workshop on consumer involvement in dementia research following ADF2018 on Wednesday 6 June.

The EAP welcomed the public release of the Communique from the 18 October 2017 *Dementia Care Forum 2017: Involving Consumers in Research towards Better Care Outcomes*. The [Communique](#) has been distributed to all Care Forum participants.

Enquiries on NNIDR's strategy and programs should be directed to nnidr@dementia.org.au. Input to strategy is encouraged.