Together Towards Tomorrow: Dementia, the Global Scene and Lessons for Australia

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Overview

After providing an overview of global developments on dementia I will

1. Suggest that Australia needs to adopt a more strategic approach to dementia

2. Identify initiatives of interest in other countries

3. Urge you to support dementia friendly communities
Background

There has been an increased global recognition of dementia as a health priority

• This must now transfer into improvements in quality of life
• Revolution not evolution
• Civil society organisations, Alzheimer associations and organisations like Catholic Health Australia will need to be a driving force
The global level

Four drivers of change

- Establishment of an evidence base
- Change in language that embraces dementia as a public health issue
- Agents for change e.g. WHO, OECD
- Priority for research
Estimated increase in dementia worldwide

- 2013: 44 million
- 2030: 76 million
- 2050: 135 million
Estimated increase in dementia worldwide

Number of people with dementia in low and middle income countries compared to high income countries

- Low and middle income countries
- High income countries
Language

• As important as the numbers a change in language
• Dementia as a public health issue
• Dementia as a chronic disease
• Dementia as preventable
• Dementia as a social as well as a medical issue
The global agents of change

Drivers

• Multiplicity of channels
• World Health Organisation (WHO)
• World Dementia Council
• Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
• NCD Alliance
• Global Alzheimer’s and Dementia Action Alliance (GADAA)
• United Nations
Research

• An increased priority for dementia research at the global level
• But it remains under-funded
• Accounts for 0.8 per cent globally of public funding on research (OECD)
• Australia has led by example with $200m additional funding over 5 years
The strategic approach

What strategic lessons can Australia learn?

• Australia first country in the world to acknowledge dementia as a major health issue

• In 2004, $320 million was committed to fund the Dementia Initiative

• 2012 Aged Care Reforms
The strategic approach

Global progress

• 20 countries around the world now have a national dementia plan
• Target of 25 countries by the end of 2015
• Regional plan for the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) area is currently being developed
• Plans are a pre-condition for political awareness and future action
OECD have identified ten key objectives for dementia policy

**Prevention (out of scope)**
- The risk of people developing dementia is minimised

**Diagnosis (chapter 3)**
- Dementia is diagnosed quickly once someone becomes concerned about symptoms

**Early dementia (chapter 4)**
- Living in the community and relying on informal care
  - Communities are safer for and more accepting of people with dementia
  - Those who wish to care for friends and relatives are supported

**Advanced dementia (chapter 5)**
- Greater need for formal care services and specialised accommodation
  - People with dementia live in safe and appropriate environments
  - Formal care services are safe and of a high quality

**End of life (chapter 5)**
- End of life care for people with dementia presents specific challenges
  - People with dementia die with dignity in the place of their choosing

**Care coordination and the role of technology (chapter 6)**
- Care is coordinated, proactive and delivered closer to home
  - The potential of technology to transform dementia care is realised

**Progression of dementia**
The strategic approach

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report

• Overview of policies employed by member countries

• Consistent implementation of these policies remains a challenge and there is still too much uncertainty around which policies are effective
The strategic approach

National Framework for Action on Dementia must commit to;

- Dementia risk reduction
- Improves the rate of the diagnosis of dementia
- Making communities friendlier places for people living with dementia
- Expanded community care with priority for flexible dementia respite
- Safe and high quality long term residential care respite
- Effective management of people with dementia in hospitals
- End of life care
Projects funded by 2012 aged care reforms

Projects funded:

• A cognitive symbol in acute care
• Guidelines by the Australia Commission on Safety and quality in Health Care: *A Better Way to Care for Patients with cognitive Impairment in Hospitals*
• Review of dementia training resources in hospitals
• Training of doctors
• On line resource for doctors
The strategic approach

What strategic lessons can Australia learn?

- The timely diagnosis of dementia and post diagnostic support
- The development of flexible respite care
- Improving the care of people living with dementia in acute care
- Quality standards in community and residential care
The strategic approach

The timely diagnosis of dementia and post diagnostic support;

- ADI estimate that less than half of all people living with dementia in high income countries have received a formal diagnosis
- Only a third of people with dementia in Australia are ever diagnosed
- Timely diagnosis is a focus for national dementia plans
The strategic approach

The Scottish model;

• Scotland has increased the rate of diagnosis to 60%
• Setting a health equity access target which can be increased over time
• Post diagnostic support guarantee from a named dementia link worker for 12 months
• Enables the individual and their families to develop a robust personal plan
• Australian consumers have set a priority for dementia key workers
The strategic approach

Respite care;

• Respite care should receive a much higher priority in dementia care policies
• Most demanded service by Australian family carers
• Japanese has a mix of approaches
  – Micro Multi Functional Community Care Facilities
  – 3800 Dementia day centres
  – 35,500 generic day centres – 1 in 3 eligible older people
  – Intergenerational interaction

• Let's try putting cash into the consumers hands
The strategic approach

Acute care;

- Across the world acute care systems are struggling to care for people living with dementia
- This will only worsen in the future if strategies to improve care are not implemented
- Dementia Nurse Consultants in 13 NHS Boards in Scotland, joined by 500 Acute Care Champions
- Evaluated by Blake Stevenson
The strategic approach

Quality;

• Less than a third of OECD countries collect quality care indicators systematically
• OECD have committed to give priority to work on quality of dementia care
• International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement working group
• Not given a high priority in the implementation of the 2012 aged care reforms
• Australia can learn from Scotland, US and Canada
Dementia Friendly Communities

Background

- Pioneered in Japan in 2005, funded by government
- Currently 6.3 million Dementia Friends in Japan
- Low cost to Japanese government
- Becomes the basis for dementia friendly communities

www.alz.co.uk/publications
Dementia Friendly Communities

• Dementia friends and dementia friendly communities are taking off globally
• David Cameron has given the lead in the UK
• Code of practice now developed by British Standards Authority
• Time for Australia to tackle stigma in this way too

www.alz.co.uk/publications
Conclusion

Australia can a lot to learn from other countries;

• The implementation of the 2012 aged care reforms has not measured up to the promise

• To achieve systemic reform Australia must commit to:
  – timely diagnosis and post diagnostic support including by continued funding for dementia key workers;
  – expanding access to flexible respite care
  – improving the quality of long term care residential care through a Dementia Supplement
  – enhancing the quality of dementia care in acute care
  – fund projects to support dementia friendly champions and communities.
  – Commit to dementia risk reduction
Conclusion

- That would be a great basis for tackling dementia by government and organisations such as CHA
- With the focus on gateways and technology we risk losing the human face and recognition of the need for the specialist skills in the community to support and care for special groups including those with dementia. That is why dementia friendly communities, dementia key workers and respite matter
- As much as we all and Governments might wish it there is no one size fits all