



Office of Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman

Minister of Health
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member of Parliament for Northcote

Catherine Hall
Chief Executive
Alzheimers New Zealand
PO Box 11-288, Manners St Postshop,
Wellington 6142, New Zealand

Dear Ms Hall

Thank you for your letter dated 8 June 2017. The Government is committed to supporting people and their families who are affected by dementia. Access to a range of home and community services, such as home help, are available to all older people at home assessed as needing support.

In the 8 years to July 2016, DHB spend on the health of older people support services, including residential care and in-home support services, has increased from \$1.2 billion to \$1.6 billion, 10 per cent of the Government's annual investment in health. Recent investment includes:

- \$44 million for dementia services over four years in Budget 2011, for residential dementia services and additional respite care
- \$1.25 million over three years in Budget 2013 to extend a national dementia awareness campaign
- \$1.2 million over four years in Budget 2013 for dementia related training for support workers to Careerforce
- \$750,000 over three years in Budget 2013 for dementia awareness programmes and assistance for primary health care teams in early detection to DHBs.

The National Framework for Dementia Care, released in 2013, is designed to help people with dementia and their families to maximise their independence, care and wellbeing. It outlines five key elements that are essential for effective dementia care: assessment, diagnosis, early intervention and ongoing support; living well; maximising wellbeing; end of life; and awareness and risk reduction. The Framework also provides a guide for DHBs in developing dementia care pathways.

Early detection of dementia is important, the sooner people get help and support, the better. The eLearning Dementia Education Resource for GPs and Practice Nurses published in June will help healthcare professionals identify early signs of dementia and ensure that they have the confidence, competence and consistency in assessing, diagnosing and managing the condition.

There are a number of other improvements that will make a difference in the aged care sector. 55,000 aged care and support workers will share in a \$2 billion pay equity settlement which will encourage the quality and retention of the workforce.

Results of the rest home audits are publicly available on the Ministry of Health website will result in significant improvement in residential care services. DHB innovations including better alliances across primary care, hospital rehabilitation services and support services in the community will also encourage better outcomes for older people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Coleman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon. Dr Jonathan Coleman
Minister of Health