



Australian Government

NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research

NNIDR Expert Advisory Panel Meeting – 12 June 2019

COMMUNIQUE

The Expert Advisory Panel met in Hobart on 12 June 2019, immediately prior to the Australian Dementia Forum 2019. This Communique updates stakeholders on meeting deliberations across key strategic areas.

With the Australian Government's initial Boosting Dementia Research Initiative (BDRI) investment in its final year, Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) members welcomed confirmation of NNIDR funding to June 2020. The EAP noted the effectiveness of the model, which has delivered outstanding results in drawing researchers and their stakeholders together, and partnering with providers and peak bodies to deliver the intended outcomes.

The challenges of both demonstrating the outcomes and impact of the initial \$200 million investment to Government, and developing the most effective long term model for a national collaborative research effort around the challenge of dementia, will be high priorities for the NNIDR and EAP over the next 12 months; to ensure robust delivery, retention of and continued growth in capacity, and longevity.

The launch of the revised [Strategic Roadmap for Dementia Research and Translation](#) at the Australian Dementia Forum 2019 by Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck was welcomed, with the Roadmap providing future guidance for dementia research priorities, and translation of research into the wider community. The revised Roadmap has highlighted the special challenges of dementia faced within Indigenous communities, by including *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and Dementia* as a key research and translation priority.

Medical Research Future Fund Mission for Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care

The Australian Government's 10 year \$185m Medical Research Future Fund Mission for Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care was welcomed, including the establishment of an expert advisory panel to determine Mission priorities. EAP agreed that communication and linkage to the NNIDR will be crucial for the Mission, ensuring progress to date and strategic learning can inform future funding decisions, and welcomed news of involvement on the Panel of the NNIDR Director and several EAP members.

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

An update to the Boosting Dementia Research Initiative – Report on Early Outcomes is being developed and an updated report is expected to be released in coming months, highlighting the translational and research outcomes seen to date. NNIDR is maintaining an inventory of outcomes, and will work with the EAP develop a forward looking prospectus addressing both current research outcomes and important future investments across priority areas.

Funding Rounds Update

Members noted the status of current Boosting Dementia Research Initiative funding rounds, to be announced in July, including:

- Priority Round 5: Implementing Dementia Risk Reduction and Prevention
- Priority Round 6: Improving dementia data and methods in Australia.

European Framework Program: JPCO-FuND 2 (2019)

Australia has been accepted as a participating country in this Precision Medicine Call for neurodegenerative diseases. The provisional funding allocation for the NHMRC-JPND JPCo-fuND-2 Call for Proposals: Multinational research projects on Personalised Medicine for Neurodegenerative Diseases is estimated to be up to \$1.6

million. The total funding available to multinational teams is EU24 million. The funding round closed on 3 March 2019 with a number of Australian teams being invited to develop their proposals for further consideration.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Roadmap for Dementia Research and Translation

Consultations towards the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Roadmap for Dementia Research and Translation are now complete and a Consultation Report will be distributed shortly to all of the communities and individuals involved in consultations. Once finalised, the Roadmap and supporting Action Plan will guide the work of NNIDR and the broader dementia research sector, to help reduce the gap between dementia incidence, prevalence, and health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples compared with the population as a whole.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Action Plan

The consultation process towards developing the CALD Action Plan has involved 19 community consultations with 340 participants, and an online survey targeting researchers, clinicians and service providers with 102 responses. Coming out of these consultations, the draft Action Plan was considered in a workshop with stakeholders at ADF 2019. It is anticipated that the CALD Action Plan will be presented for consideration by Government and the research community in the third quarter of 2019.

Consumer Involvement in Dementia Research

EAP members continued to underline their support for active involvement of people living with dementia, their carers and families, in dementia research. NNIDR's Consumer Involvement Program aims to increase the capacity of consumers to be involved in research and influence the research agenda.

The Community and Consumer Involvement Program Reference Group (CCIRG) held their ADF Roundtable meeting, where they discussed learning materials for involving consumers in dementia research. The Reference Group will put ideas for action emerging from the Round Table into a survey for the group members to rank priorities and will meet monthly by video conference to advance actionable ideas.

Brain Banking

EAP members welcomed progress in the review of Brain Banking arrangements. It was agreed the Report positions the issues well for consideration as part of both the Medical Research Future Fund infrastructure funding strategy, and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy's new focus on biobanking.

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