

HOW DO I ACCESS A KEY WORKER?

The best way to access the Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program is to call the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500.

Alternatively, talk to your GP, specialist or other health or community service professional about being referred to Alzheimer's Australia.

CONTACT US

NATIONAL DEMENTIA HELPLINE

1800 100 500

The National Dementia Helpline is an initiative of the Australian Government

WWW.FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU

YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA KEY WORKER PROGRAM



Alzheimer's Australia Inc
ABN: 79 625 582 771
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The Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program is funded by the Australian Government. Access to the program is free to consumers and their carers. Usual charges still apply to activities, services and supports outside of the Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program such as respite care or social activities.

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WHAT IS YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA?

Dementia describes a collection of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. It is not one specific disease.

Dementia affects thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday tasks. Brain function is affected enough to interfere with the person's normal social or working life. The hallmark of dementia is the inability to carry out everyday activities as a consequence of diminished cognitive ability.

Younger onset dementia is a term used to describe the onset of symptoms of dementia before the age of 65. There are many causes of younger onset dementia, with the most common causes being Alzheimer's disease, stroke and frontotemporal dementia. Based on research evidence, there are approximately 25,100 people in Australia who have younger onset dementia¹.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Alzheimer's Australia has launched a new national Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program to provide individualised support and services to improve the quality of life for people with younger onset dementia, their families and carers. This program is being funded by the Australian Government.

WHAT IS A KEY WORKER?

A Key Worker is the primary point of contact for a person with younger onset dementia, their carers and families to provide individualised information, support, counselling, advice and service planning.

The Key Worker assists people with younger onset dementia to locate and link into the service and support options appropriate for their individual needs. The principle underpinning the key worker model of service delivery is consumer directed care, which means individual control and choice over the type of services a person can receive.

In addition, the Key Worker will work with doctors and service providers to improve coordination of services across agencies and ensure that the needs of people with younger onset dementia are being met in the local community.

Some examples of what Key Workers might do include:

- Working with a person with younger onset dementia and/or their family or carer to set goals and create care plans based on their individual needs.
- Assisting people to navigate and understand the available services.
- Assisting organisations to understand dementia and modify their services to meet the needs of people with younger onset dementia and their families.



HOW CAN A KEY WORKER SUPPORT YOU?

Methods of support by a Key Worker may include meeting face-to-face, contact via telephone, email or via Skype.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA KEY WORKER PROGRAM?

People with younger onset dementia, their partners, primary carers, family members, and service providers are eligible to access the Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program.

To be eligible for the program, a person must be under the age of 65 when they first make contact with the service or enter the program.

This applies to a person who has been diagnosed with younger onset dementia (all forms of), or a person with symptoms of dementia that have not yet been diagnosed.

¹. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2012. Dementia in Australia. Cat. no. AGE 70. Canberra: AIHW