



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



Media Release

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TIME TO ACT ON DEMENTIA

Sharon Grierson MP, Co-Convenor of Parliamentary Friends of Dementia welcomes the report released today by Alzheimer’s Australia, highlighting the importance of early detection and intervention to slow the dementia epidemic.

Delaying the onset of Alzheimer’s disease by as little as five months would reduce the number of new cases each year by 50% and produce savings of \$13.5 billion by 2020 and \$67.5 billion by 2040.

In the Hunter it is estimated that there are more than 10,000 dementia sufferers with many more cases undetected.

Nationally there are more than 162,000 people with dementia, including 6,600 people under 65 with ‘younger’ onset dementia. The prevalence of dementia is growing rapidly and is expected to reach the 500,000 mark by around 2040.

The human cost to dementia sufferers and their families is immeasurable and during Dementia Awareness Week, Sharon Grierson congratulates the work of Alzheimer’s Australia and local organisations like Hunter Network who are focussed on developing and supporting the best possible quality of care for people living with dementia and their family carers.

Investment in funding for research, prevention and early intervention strategies and programs and organisations that assist dementia sufferers and their families makes good sense and I will continue to advocate for sound initiatives.

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