NO LONGER A STATISTIC

The National Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program paving the way

Connie Alomes and Marie Gorman: Alzheimer’s Australia
# Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program

## Statistics

- **2801 Referrals**
  - 1 July 13 to 31 Mar 15

- **1252 People with Dementia**

- **1549 Carers, Family & Friends**

- **40 Key Workers**

- **6 States, 2 Territories**

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**Understand Alzheimer's Australia**

[Alzheimer's Australia](http://fightdementia.org.au)
AGE RANGE: PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA

![Bar chart showing age range distribution for persons with dementia. The chart indicates that the highest number of cases are in the 60-64 age range, followed by the 55-59 age range. Other age ranges show significantly fewer cases.]
GENDER: PERSON WITH DEMENTIA

- Male: 49%
- Female: 51%

GENDER: CARER, FAMILY/FRIENDS

- Male: 33%
- Female: 67%
WHAT'S DIFFERENT FOR THE PERSON WITH YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA?

• Younger, active
• Younger families
• Younger carers
• Older carers
• Working
• Mortgages and Financial commitments
BARRIERS TO MAINSTREAM SERVICES

• Too young for dementia
• Delayed diagnosis and misdiagnosis
• Who owns the care of a person with Younger Onset Dementia?
• Younger clients being asked to conform to services for older people
• End of life care
UNIQUENESS OF THE KEY WORKER PROGRAM

- Coordinated program on both national and state levels with consistent standards and processes.
- Holistic, person centred, whole of journey service to clients, that is not time limited and takes into account the goals, wishes and needs of the unique individual.
GOAL OUTCOMES

- Much better than expected: 171
- Somewhat better than expected: 29
- Expected Outcome: 374
- Somewhat less than expected: 174
- Much less than expected: 90
BUILDING CAPACITY

The program builds capacity on 2 levels:
• For individual younger onset clients, wishing to be engaged in activities or services, tailored to suit their lifestyle and needs
• For service providers and organisations wishing to become more ‘dementia friendly’ in program development, or organisational change, around clients with younger onset dementia, and their supporters
“On a daily basis, as I walk around my local shops and suburb, I get the smiles and encouragement from many others. They see me as a person, not as a statistic.”

John.
CONTACT

THE NATIONAL DEMENTIA HELPLINE

1800 100 500

National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government initiative.

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