

Media Release

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New Specialist Dementia Care Program provides better targeted care

The provision of more than 30 specialist dementia care units across Australia is a great step toward better targeted support for people with severe symptoms of dementia, according to HammondCare Chief Executive Dr Stephen Judd.

Dr Judd was commenting on the announcement today by Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, of the \$70 million roll out of the new Specialist Dementia Care Program.

He also welcomed the announcement that the initial tender process for the first 15 units will begin in early 2019, with remaining sites selected in 2021.

“This really is very important because a network of specialist dementia care units has been the missing link in dementia care in Australia,” Dr Judd said.

“Our experience through running a similar unit in Sydney for 12 years has shown that a program like this can provide care for people with severe symptoms of dementia who otherwise cannot be well supported in mainstream residential care.

“The federally-funded Severe Behaviour Response Teams (SBRTs) and Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (DBMAS) – run by Dementia Support Australia – provide on-the-ground, expert clinical support and case management.

“Now the Specialist Dementia Care Program will complement these national services as a vital third-tier through provision of specialist residential support operating across the country, including in rural and remote areas.”

Dr Judd also welcomed confirmation that, alongside \$200 million for dementia research, an additional \$3 million is available to boost collection of Australian dementia data, including prevalence, which he said was essential in allowing continued improvement in the targeting and provision of dementia care.

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Media: Dr Judd is available for interview today. For more information contact Peter Hallett on 0418 532 585 or phallett@hammond.com.au

HammondCare: HammondCare provides health, aged and dementia care expertise that empowers the people that we serve. Regarded nationally and internationally as one of Australia’s most innovative health and aged care providers, HammondCare offers hospital care, residential care and community services. HammondCare is an independent Christian charity