



Dementia

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awarded over
\$58 million for
Alzheimer's disease
and other dementia
research from
2000 to 2007

Dementia is a growing health and social issue. Dementia currently affects around 1% of people aged over 65, and around 25% of people aged over 85¹.

The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, the cause of which is unknown. Although Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of ageing, it is more common in older people.

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Alzheimer's disease and other dementia research	
2000	\$2.6m
2001	\$3.8m
2002	\$5.8m
2003	\$6.6m
2004	\$7.0m
2005	\$8.8m
2006	\$11.4m
2007	\$12.9m

Figures on all tables are correct as at March 2007. They may differ from previously published figures.

NHMRC is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research; for developing health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and government; and for providing advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

¹ Department of Health and Ageing, www.health.gov.au

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Some of the most common forms of dementia are:²

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and accounts for between 50% and 70% of all cases.

VASCULAR DEMENTIA

Vascular dementia is the broad term for dementia associated with problems of circulation of blood to the brain and is the second most common form of dementia.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the central nervous system, characterised by tremors, stiffness in limbs and joints, speech impediments and difficulty in initiating physical movements.

DEMENTIA WITH LEWY BODIES

Dementia with Lewy bodies is caused by the degeneration and death of nerve cells in the brain.

FRONTO TEMPORAL LOBAR DEGENERATION (FTLD)

This is the name given to a group of dementias when there is degeneration in one or both of the frontal or temporal lobes of the brain.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

Huntington's disease is an inherited, degenerative brain disease that affects the mind and body. It usually appears between the ages of 30 and 50 and is characterised by intellectual decline and irregular, involuntary movement of the limbs or facial muscles.

ALCOHOL-RELATED DEMENTIA: KORSAKOFF'S SYNDROME

Too much alcohol, particularly if associated with a diet deficient in thiamine (Vitamin B1), can lead to irreversible brain damage.

CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is an extremely rare, fatal brain disorder caused by a protein particle called a prion. It occurs in one in every million people per year.

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² Alzheimer's Australia, www.alzheimers.org.au