ABSTRACT

Background

In order to provide appropriate care for the aging population, many countries are adopting a National Dementia Strategy (NDS). On June 22, 2017, Canada announced it will become the 30th country to launch a NDS. In light of this announcement and as Canada prepares to develop its own NDS, we conducted this review to examine and compare the NDSs of the other previous 29 countries with Canadian government’s policies to date.

Methods

NDSs were compared according to their major priorities. The primary endpoints were the framework conditions and key actions outlined in the strategies. Secondary endpoints included the years active, involvement of stakeholders, funding, and implementation.

Results

We were able to review and compare 25 of the 29 published NDSs. While the NDSs of each country varied, several major priorities were common among the strategies—increasing awareness of dementia, reducing its stigma, identifying support services, improving the quality of care, as well as improving training and education and promoting research.

Conclusions

This review comprehensively lists and compares the NDSs of different countries. The results should be of great interest to policy-makers, health-care professionals and other key stakeholders involved in developing Canada’s forthcoming NDS. We hope that policy-makers in Canada can review other NDSs, learn from their example, and develop an effective NDS for our country.

Key words: dementia, national dementia strategy, government, policy

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, approximately 46.8 million people worldwide had dementia, and this figure will almost double every 20 years—75 million in 2030 and 131.5 million by 2050. With the medical advances and improved health care over the last century, the expected lifespan of individuals is increasing, accompanied by a rise in the number of people living with dementia.(1) As a result of the increasing prevalence of dementia, the significant economic impact from this illness will only continue to grow. In 2015, the total estimated global cost of dementia was 818 billion USD, which accounted for 1.09% of the world’s GDP. However, these costs underestimate the true economic impact of dementia, as it is limited to caring for diagnosed patients, which is estimated to account for only one-quarter of all patients who suffer from dementia.(1) As the awareness and knowledge of dementia increases in the near-future, more cases of dementia will likely be diagnosed; along with the projected increase in dementia among the aging population, health-care costs will only trend upwards.

In order to address this changing demographic, many countries are adopting a National Dementia Strategy (NDS) as a comprehensive government plan to provide appropriate medical care for people with dementia. A government dementia plan is a policy whereby the national government holds itself accountable to carry out its stated specific objectives and policy changes, although objectives can be accomplished with non-governmental collaborators. Recommendations on the process of public policy creation have been published, and are listed in Table 1.(2) Created using input from various stakeholders (i.e., government agencies, legislators, residential and community care providers, professional and family carers, researchers, physicians, and people with dementia), the NDS is tailored specifically to the unique culture and demographics of each country to address a range of issues. Common priorities for NDSs include: raising awareness of...
the disease, combating stigma, identifying support services, quantifying the number of individuals with dementia, assessing and improving the quality of dementia care, and assessing the availability and access to diagnostic services. These strategies have been well-received and reported as the single most powerful tool to transform dementia care and support within a country.(3,4)

On June 22, 2017, Canada announced it will become the 30th country to launch a National Dementia Strategy.(4) The timing of this announcement was curious in view of the fact that, at the G8 Dementia Summit in London on December 11, 2013, the G8 Health Ministers met to discuss how to shape an effective international response to dementia. They committed to carry out 12 dementia public health policy actions, with Canada and France co-leading this initiative.(5) Subsequent to this, on September 11, 2014, at a meeting with leading researchers and dementia industry experts in Ottawa, the Federal Health Minister acknowledged that Canada was the only G7 nation without a NDS. As such, the government began planning a new National Dementia Research and Prevention Plan.(6) Canada’s laggard response to NDS development can only be a matter of speculation.

In light of the recent news that Canada is now finally developing a NDS, we conducted this review with the purpose of examining and comparing the NDSs across the 29 prior countries with Canadian government policies to date. This information could provide valuable insight for clinicians, researchers, and policy-makers about pre-existing policies in other countries, to potentially aid in the development of a comprehensive and effective strategy for Canada.

METHODS

Selection Criteria

All the NDSs were retrieved from Alzheimer’s Disease International.(3) For countries that have published several NDSs over time, only the current or most recent strategy was included, to allow for cross-country comparison. For strategies published in foreign languages, online translation services were employed. Strategies that were not publicly available from its corresponding country were excluded.

Data Extraction and Endpoints

The 29 countries are defined according to Alzheimer’s Disease International.(3) NDSs of countries were compared according to their major priorities. The primary endpoints were the framework conditions and key actions outlined in the strategy. Secondary endpoints included the years active, involvement of stakeholders, funding, and implementation.

Data extraction from the 29 national strategies was delegated among the authors, who worked in pairs. For each national strategy, one author extracted endpoints and another author verified the extracted data to ensure accuracy and consistency in the results.

RESULTS

Of the 29 countries identified as having a NDS, 25 were published in English or in a language/medium that could be readily translated to English using online translation services. The literature published by the countries of Argentina,(37) Costa Rica,(38) Macau, and Slovenia(39) were not publicly available online and/or could not be translated to English for inclusion in our review.

A summary of each NDS is provided in Table 2. While the NDSs of each country varied, several major priorities were common among most of the strategies: increasing awareness of dementia, reducing the stigma surrounding the illness, identifying support services, improving the quality of care, as well as improving training and education and promoting research. Several NDSs also specified the funding received to carry out the strategy, along with how the strategy will be implemented.

### TABLE 1.

Principles of population health policy^a^

| Recommendation | Principle |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1              | Include directives, plans, and courses of action documented in writing |
| 2              | Prioritize early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation following disease among at-risk and symptomatic individuals |
| 3              | Include political, economic, epidemiological, ethical, behavioral, and legal considerations when developing population health policy |
| 4              | Population health needs vary among groups across different demographics and jurisdictions |
| 5              | Population health policies need to balance standardization with customization of interventions |
| 6              | When evaluating the effect of population health policy on outcomes, the social determinants of health must be taken into account |
| 7              | To manage population health, align strategic planning with the management of human resources |
| 8              | Identify population health needs through available health needs assessments and input from affected population members |

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^a^Adapted from Reference #2.
### TABLE 2.

Summary of national dementia strategies

| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Australia<sup>7)</sup> | 2015 – 2019 | i. Increase awareness and reduce risk | i. • Develop dementia-friendly communities  
• Launch awareness campaigns  
• Adopt collaborative evidence-based approach for awareness and risk reduction activities  
• Promote healthy and physically active lifestyles | • Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council  
• Individuals with dementia  
• Caregivers  
• Families  
• Doctors  
• Service providers | • National Health Medical and Research Council funds research  
• $200 M over 5 years committed by Australian Government for dementia research  
◦ Includes $50 M to establish a National Institute for Dementia Research | Did not mention |
|         |              | ii. Address need for timely diagnosis | ii. • Provide education and ongoing training for healthcare professionals  
• Use multi-disciplinary approach for diagnosis | | | |
|         |              | iii. Access to care and support post diagnosis | iii. • Develop dementia-specific healthcare teams  
• Provide education, training, and support for caregivers and families | | | |
|         |              | iv. Access to ongoing care and support | iv. • Provide support services and education programs for caregivers  
• Provide access to advice, support, and respite services for patients and families  
• Provide specialist medical and non-medical services in residential aged care facilities  
• Provide mental health services for people with behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia | | | |
TABLE 2. Continued

| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Australia<sup>7)</sup> Continued | v. Access to care and support during and after hospital care | v. | - Improve assessment of cognitive impairment and dementia on admission in the acute healthcare setting  
- Develop evidence-based clinical care pathway for patients  
- Develop standards to ensure consistency among care and admissions/discharges from the acute care setting | | | |
| | vi. Access to end-of-life and palliative care | vi. | - Promote advance care planning after diagnosis of dementia  
- Provide training and education for advance care planning options and palliative approaches  
- Develop care and referral pathways to enable seamless transition to palliative care | | | |
| | vii. Promote research | vii. | - Conduct dementia research into areas such as: causes, diagnosis, care, treatment, cure  
- Explore opportunities for collaborative research with other National Health Priority Areas  
- Improve hospital data collection of dementia | | | |
| Country       | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                                   | Involvement of Stakeholders               | Funding                  | Implementation                                                                 |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cuba         | 2013         | i. Increase awareness and reduce risk | i. Provide more education and information                                                       | Cuban Section of Alzheimer, National Directorate of Elderly | Did not mention         | • Annual meetings will be held to discuss progress and implementation of national strategy |
|              |              | ii. Develop dementia-friendly communities | ii. Establish residential facilities specialized for caring for people with dementia | Cuban Section of Alzheimer, National Directorate of Elderly | Did not mention         | • National Directorate of Primary Health Care, the Department of the Elderly, Mental Health and Social Welfare will monitor and coordinate the Key Actions |
|              |              | iii. Promote prevention and early diagnosis | iii. Did not mention                                                                          |                                          |                          | • Cuban Section of Alzheimer, Scientific Societies, Universities, Research Centers and Relief will conduct dementia research |
|              |              | iv. Implement “Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice” for dementia care | iv. Use the guidelines in daily clinical practice                                               |                                          |                          | • Universities of Medical Sciences, along with the Departments of Geriatrics, Neurology, and Psychiatry in teaching hospitals, will train healthcare professionals involved with dementia care |
|              |              | v. Increase the availability of specialists in dementia care | v. Provide geriatrics training for related specialties: general medicine, internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry, nurses, psychologists, social workers |                                          |                          | • Cuban Institute of Radio and Television will develop and disseminate educational messages to the public |
|              |              | vi. Increase availability of treatments | vi. Promote alternative treatment options: cognitive stimulating activities, physical exercise, etc. |                                          |                          |                                                                                 |
TABLE 2.
Continued

| Country       | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                 |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cuba          | (Unofficial English translation) Continued | vii. Reduce stigma vii. | • Launch dementia campaigns, television and radio programs, and health promotion activities  
• Develop and disseminate educational messages  
• Establish annual dementia programs for “World Alzheimer’s Day” on September 21 |  |
|               |              |                      | viii. Promote patients’ rights viii. | • Provide training to healthcare professionals about laws and rights of people with dementia  
• Require healthcare professionals to maintain complete medical history of patients, including neuropsychological tests  
• Require healthcare professionals to be responsible for assessing mental competency of patients |  |
|               |              |                      | ix. Promote research ix. | • Conduct dementia research into areas such as: risk factors, incidence rates, diagnostic tools (e.g. genetic counseling, neuroimaging, biomarkers) |  |
| Czech Republic | 2016-2019 i. Improve early diagnosis i. | | • Adapt internationally accepted best practices for diagnosis of dementia  
• Ensure public health insurance covers the costs for dementia care  
• Include cognitive assessments in general medical examinations of seniors | • Ministry of Health  
• Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs  
• Czech Alzheimer’s Society  
• Czech Neurological Society  
• Czech Gerontological and Geriatric Society  
• Psychiatric Society  
• Czech Association of Nurses |  
|               |              |                      |                      | • Ministry of Health  
• Health insurance  
• European Social fund  
• European Structural and Investment funds  
• National budget |  
|               |              |                      |                      | • Strategy will be updated annually and progress on the implementation will be presented to the government  
• The National Institute will implement dementia training programs for teachers |  |
### TABLE 2.
Continued

| Country          | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Czech Republic   | (9)          | (Online translation service used) Continued | ii. Standardize treatment methods | • Establish standardized treatment methods for neurology, psychiatry, and geriatrics  
• Prevent over-use of antipsychotic agents |                     |                              |
|                  |              |                      | iii. Improve access to care | • Promote the development of highly specialized interdisciplinary centers to care for atypical dementia patients  
• Establish structured network of dementia centers |                     |                              |
|                  |              |                      | iv. Increase support for caregivers | • Establish a financial support system for caregivers  
• Provide support for employed people who are informal caregivers  
• Provide psychological support for caregivers  
• Promote the development of peer support groups |                     |                              |
|                  |              |                      | v. Educate informal caregivers | • Offer accredited educational courses |                     |                              |
|                  |              |                      | vi. Train professionals | • Provide accredited courses about dementia to professionals who work with these patients  
• Provide training for healthcare professionals in neurology, psychiatry, geriatrics, long-term care, and palliative medicine |                     |                              |
|                  |              |                      | vii. Increase awareness | • Organize public information campaigns through the media  
• Reduce stigma |                     |                              |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Czech Republic\(^{(9)}\) (Online translation service used) Continued | | viii. Promote intergenerational solidarity in society | viii. • Did not mention | | | |
| | ix. Educate public sector workers | ix. • Educate each profession in public sector about dementia • Organize training programs for teachers • Publish training materials online: www.rvp.cz | | | | |
| | x. Implement epidemiological surveillance and monitoring | x. • Collect data for statistical monitoring of prevalence of dementia • Use this data to plan health and social services | | | | |
| | xi. Cooperate with other countries | xi. • Exchange experience, data, information, and best practices with other countries • Participate in European and global dementia initiatives | | | | |
| | xii. Assess ability of patients to drive safely | xii. • Establish standardized rules for assessing the ability of elderly to drive safely | | | | |
| | xiii. Promote research | xiii. • Continue supporting basic and applied biomedical research • Promote international cooperation in research | | | | |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| England | 2009         | i. Increase awareness | i. Launch public information campaigns • Promote prevention methods and timely diagnosis and care • Provide educational material to schools | Department of Health Programme Board • Department of Health Working Group • External Reference Group • Individuals with dementia • Specific target groups of patients: ◦ Younger people ◦ People with learning disabilities ◦ People from minority ethnic groups ◦ People from rural and island communities ◦ Prisoners ◦ Caregivers | Decisions on funding were made after results from the initial demonstrator sites and evaluation work are analyzed | Led by the Department of Health • Established regional support teams support local implementation • Established a national baseline measurement of services • Conducted annual reviews of current services • Monitored progress of implementation over time |
|         |              | ii. Establish memory services | ii. Commission local memory services | | | |
|         |              | iii. Increase information available for patients and caregivers | iii. Provide information and support services at diagnosis and throughout course of care for patients and caregivers | | | |
|         |              | iv. Provide continuity of support | iv. Provide easy access to care, support, and advice following diagnosis • Establish new role of a “dementia adviser” to serve as point of contact for patients and caregivers | | | |
|         |              | v. Promote peer support | v. Develop structured peer support and learning networks | | | |
|         |              | vi. Improve community personal support services | vi. Implement “Putting People First” personalization changes for people with dementia • Establish effective specialist services to support patients living at home | | | |
|         |              | vii. Implement “Caregivers’ Strategy” | vii. Ensure that needs of caregivers are met • Promote development of breaks that benefit both patients and caregivers | | | |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|
| England | (10) Continued | xiii. Improve care in dementia care homes | xi. | Identify senior staff member to take lead for quality improvement of dementia care | | | |
|         |              |                      |             | Develop local strategy for management and care of patients | | | |
|         |              |                      |             | Commission specialist in-reach services from older people’s community mental health teams | | | |
|         |              |                      |             | Commission other in-reach services: primary care, pharmacy, dentistry | | | |
|         |              |                      |             | Initiate projects and evaluations to fill in current gap of definitive data in this area | | | |
|         |              |                      |             | Improve pain relief and nursing support | | | |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| England | Continued    | xiii. Promote workforce competencies, development, and training | xiii. • Establish effective basic training and continuous professional development in dementia |  |  |  |
|         |              | xiv. Monitor performance and evaluate dementia services | xiv. • Conduct routine inspections for care homes and other service providers |  |  |  |
|         |              | xv. Promote research | xv. • The Medical Research Council and Department of Health will convene a summit of parties interested in dementia research |  |  |  |
| Finland | 2012-2020    | i. Promote brain health | i. • Develop indicators and produce more information about brain health and prevention of memory disorders | • Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health | • Finland’s National Development Programme for Social Welfare and Health Care and Finland’s Slot Machine Association will fund brain health promotion | • Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will coordinate brain health promotion |
|         |              | ii. Increase dementia awareness | ii. • Launch public awareness campaign | • Development of dementia services will be funded by Finland’s Slot Machine Association, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, and other parties that grant funds for research and development | • Development of dementia services will be funded by Finland’s Slot Machine Association, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, and other parties that grant funds for research and development | • National Institute for Health and Welfare, universities, and other research organizations will develop indicators and produce more information about brain health |
|         |              | iii. Ensure a good quality of life for patients and families | iii. • Establish regional outpatient clinics offering primary healthcare services | • National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities will support local authorities during implementation | • National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities will support local authorities during implementation |  |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| **Finland**<sup>11)</sup> Continued | iv. Improve dementia care | iv. | • Investigate potential to establish national network of centres of expertise  
• Develop national criteria and indicators for quality control and supervision of dementia services  
• Develop national targets for prerequisite skills of professionals working with people with dementia | • Research funding agencies will fund dementia research conducted at universities | • Joint municipal authorities in charge of hospital districts will update their healthcare provision plans to cover brain health  
• National Institute for Health and Welfare will develop the online memory portal: www.muisti.fi | |
| **France**<sup>12)</sup> | 2008-2012 | i. Improve diagnosis  
ii. Improve treatment and support services | i. | • Develop care pathway for the diagnosis and counselling of dementia  
• Improve assessment and diagnosis services | • National Social and Medico-Social Evaluation Agency  
• National Health Authority  
• Directorate General for Social Action  
• Directorate General for Health  
• Assembly of French Departments  
• National Employees’ Pension Fund  
• France Alzheimer  
• Medical specialists  
• Representatives of social and healthcare services  
• Representatives of local authorities  
• Representatives of the research community and partner organizations | • Health insurance system  
• National Fund for the Autonomy of Elderly and Disabled People  
• Over 1.2 B Euros of funding in total  
• Includes 200 M Euros for improving healthcare  
• Includes 200 M Euros for research | • Led by Professors Michel Clanet, Joël Ankri and Etienne Hirsch  
• Evaluated and reported progress to the President every 6 months |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| France$^{(12)}$ | Continued | iii. Promote research | • Establish the “Foundation for Scientific Cooperation” to coordinate research • Publicize and promote research across Europe | | | |
| Greece$^{(13)}$ | 2015-2020 | i. Record and classify patients with dementia into different categories based on type of disease and specific needs | i. • Provide financial support for patients according to algorithm of disease and of families’ financial burdens | • Ministry of Health • Local Administration Organizations • Ministry of Education – Universities • National School of Public Health • Healthcare professionals • Alzheimer’s Association • Centers of Excellence for Dementia • Charities • Research institutions | • Ministry of Health • National Organization for Rendering Health Services • European Union Structural Funds • Corporate Social Responsibility • Charities • Private groups | Coordinators in hospitals will ensure that examination and hospitalization protocols are implemented |
TABLE 2.  
Continued

| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Greece  | Continued    | v. Enhance patients’ and caregivers’ rights | v.         | • Change current legislations to include needs of patients and caregivers  
• Adopt legislation aimed specifically at dementia  
vi. Enhance education | vi. | • Offer clinical and research scholarships  
• Establish “Centres of Excellence for Dementia” to provide education for specialized doctors  
vii. Promote research | vii. | • Participate in international research |
| Indonesia | 2016 | i. Improve dementia care | i. | • Provide education and training programs for staff involved in dementia care  
ii. Promote good brain health for productive older adults | ii. | • Promote dementia services  
• Establish cognitive health program  
• Launch public campaign to promote brain-healthy lifestyles  
iii. Manage cognitive disorders early to prevent dementia | iii. | • Implement early detection, diagnosis and holistic management of cognitive disorders and dementia  
• Ministry of Home Affairs  
• Ministry of Social Affairs  
• Ministry of Health  
• National Family Planning Coordinating Board  
• Coordinating Ministry for People’s Welfare  
• Ministry of Education and Culture  
• Ministry of Finance  
• Social insurance  
• Institute of Sciences  
• Academy of Sciences  
• Directorate General of Higher Education  
• State budget  
• Local budget  
• International agencies  
• Non-governmental organizations  
• Private sector  
• Businesses  
progress will be monitored by central and district governments, the Commission for the Elderly, universities, and non-governmental organizations |
| Country   | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                 | Funding                                                                                           | Implementation                                                                                   |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ireland   | 2011-2016    | i. Increase awareness | i.                                                                                             | • Educate public about healthy lifestyles and cardiovascular risk factors of dementia   | • 105,000 Euros pledged by government to support the plan during the first year                    | • The Health Service Executive delegated responsibilities of implementation within its own facilities |
|           |              |                      | • Implement “The National Physical Activity Plan” to promote regular physical activity      | • Local authorities                                                                       |                                                                                                   | • Senior doctor within each hospital led implementation                                          |
|           |              |                      | • Reduce stigma                                                                                     | • State agencies                                                                                   |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | ii. Provide timely   | ii.                                                                                             | • Caregivers                                                                                  |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | diagnosis and        |                                                                                                 | • Individuals with dementia                                                                   |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | intervention          |                                                                                                 | • Local authorities                                                                       |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | • State agencies                                                                                   |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | iii. Provide         | iii.                                                                                             | • Working Group                                                                             |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | integrated services, |                                                                                                 | • Healthcare professionals                                                                  |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | support and care      |                                                                                                 | • Researchers                                                                                |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | • Representatives of the Department of Health and the Health Service                         |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | Executive                                                                                     |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | • Review existing dementia services                                                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | • Provide general practitioners with dementia-specific resources                             |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | • Develop guidance material about medication management for nursing homes                 |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | iv. Provide training  | iv.                                                                                             | • Caregivers                                                                                  |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | and education         |                                                                                                 | • Provide dementia-specific training for healthcare professionals                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              |                      |                                                                                                 | • Appoint healthcare professional in primary care services to coordinate each patient’s care      |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | v. Establish          | v.                                                                                               | • Designate senior management of the Health Service Executive to respond to any concerns regarding dementia |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | leadership roles in  |                                                                                                 | • Establish a “Work Stream on Dementia Care” by The Clinical Strategy and Programmes Division |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|           |              | dementia care         |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Israel  | 2013         | i. Increase awareness and reduce stigma | i. Launch public education campaigns  
• Disseminate culturally adapted information  
• Increase awareness of patients' and patient families' rights | Ministry of Health  
• Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services  
• National Insurance Institute of Israel  
• Ministry for Senior Citizens  
• Alzheimer's Society of Israel  
• Melaveh (a non-profit organization for Alzheimer's)  
• Academia and Health System  
• Myers-Joint Distribution Committee-Brookdale Institute of Gerontology  
• Joint Distribution Committee-Eshel (The Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel) | Did not mention | National health insurance law will be responsible for creating the care package for patients  
• Resources will be allocated, and legislative changes will be promoted as needed  
• Priorities and goals will be set in every ministry, and a multi-year plan will be formulated |
|         |              | ii. Improve community health services | ii. Establish program to promote prevention of dementia  
• Develop care package for patients  
• Expand use of drug therapy  
• Increase referrals to non-medical treatments  
• Create new role of “nurse coordinator” to ensure continuity of care  
• Improve treatment of advanced dementia at end-of-life | | | |
|         |              | iii. Improve community social services | iii. Provide more intensive care for patients requiring supervision  
• Prioritize cognitive deterioration when assessing patients’ independence  
• Establish additional daycare centres and expand its operating hours | | | |
|         |              | iv. Improve support for caregivers | iv. Increase wages for caregivers  
• Establish information and consultation centres accessible by phone  
• Establish respite care within daycare facilities  
• Increase awareness of families’ legal rights  
• Develop auxiliary technologies | | | |

TABLE 2. Continued
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Israel[16] Continued | | v. Adapt long-term care services to the changing needs of patients | v. • Increase availability of beds to meet the needs in different regions • Project future needs and monitor increases in supply • Develop models for institutional care | | | |
| | | vi. Expand training resources | vi. • Expand clinical professionals’ scope of study • Provide training for general practitioners on the diagnosis and management of dementia care | | | |
| | | vii. Promote research | vii. • Define outcome measures • Develop agenda for research • Consider establishing national register on incidence and prevalence of dementia • Fund research | | | |
| Italy[17-19] 2014 | i. Promote public actions and policies to address dementia | i. • Map dementia services at national and regional level • Update guidelines and consensus documents to include dementia care | • Ministry of Health • Health and social sectors • National Institute of Health • 3 major national patients/caregivers associations • Alzheimer Uniti Onlus Italy • Regional health authorities • Local city councils • Families | • Ministry of Health | Did not mention |
| Country          | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                 | Funding                                                                 | Implementation |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Japan(20-22)     | 2015         | i. Coordinate medical care and long-term care | i. Establish support team for patients with early-stage dementia  
ii. Promote research around prevention and cure  
iii. Develop dementia-friendly communities | • Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare  
• Local citizens  
• Long-term care service providers  
• Doctors | • Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare funds community support projects  
• Long-term Care Insurance funds home, community and institutional care | Did not mention |
| Republic of Korea(23-24) | 2010       | i. Improve early diagnosis and treatment | i. Establish public health center to provide dementia care to entire population  
ii. Increase the number of trained dementia specialists  
iii. Increase number of dementia specialists to 6000 by 2012 | • Individuals with dementia  
• Families  
• Caregivers  
• Dementia specialists  
• Korean government  
• Alzheimer’s Association of Korea  
• Neurologist/psychiatrist associations  
• Ministry of Health and Welfare  
• Nurse’s Associations | Did not mention  
Did not mention |
| Country          | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                 | Funding                | Implementation                                                                 |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Republic of Korea | 1923-2024    | iii. Alleviate caregiver burden | iii. • Increase eligibility for long-term care insurance by raising recipient income limit by $20,000 per year | • Ministry of Family and Integration • Ministry of Health • Senior Club • Ministry of Social Security • Families • Healthcare professionals • Government officials • Representatives of various associations, politicians, and civil society | Did not mention       | Did not mention                                                                 |
| Luxembourg       | 2013         | i. Improve the quality of life of patients and informal caregivers | i. • Promote prevention and early diagnosis • Support families • Establish system to help patients and families with decision-making • Review training for healthcare professionals | • Ministry of Family and Integration • Ministry of Health • Senior Club • Ministry of Social Security • Families • Healthcare professionals • Government officials • Representatives of various associations, politicians, and civil society | Did not mention       | Did not mention                                                                 |
| Malta            | 2015-2023    | i. Increase awareness  | i. • Reduce stigma • Provide information on risk factors for dementia • Provide guidance for patients and caregivers | • Malta Dementia Society                                                               | Did not mention       | • Will assess priorities and determine a plan of action, timeframes and key players • Will monitor progress and achievements |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| **Malta**<sup>26</sup> Continued |  | iv. Improve dementia care | iv. | - Provide pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments  
- Develop individualized care pathways  
- Provide easy access to community services  
- Provide long-term and palliative care |  |  |
|  |  | v. Ensure ethical approach for dementia care | v. | - Provide resources to help patients and families with decision-making |  |  |
|  |  | vi. Promote research | vi. | - Did not mention |  |  |
| **Mexico**<sup>27</sup>  
(Unofficial English translation) | 2014 | i. Promote mental health and prevention of dementia | i. | - Increase awareness of dementia  
- Strengthen prevention campaigns  
- Engage civil society, private institutions, and industries in the fight against dementia |  |  |
|  |  | ii. Provide easy access to services | ii. | - Provide comprehensive medical care  
- Establish daycare centers for patients |  |  |
|  |  | iii. Improve diagnosis and treatment | iii. | - Provide catalogue of resources to patients and caregivers  
- Reduce burden on patients and families |  |  |
|  |  | iv. Increase geriatric training | iv. | - Increase number of dementia-specialists  
- Include geriatrics training in undergraduate and graduate curricula for healthcare professionals |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- National Institute of Geriatrics  
- National Institute of Public Health  
- National Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery  
- Mexican Alzheimer Federation  
- National Institute of Older Adults  
- Did not mention  
- Created an advisory group to monitor progress
| Country          | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding                       | Implementation                      |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mexico<sup>(27)</sup>  
(Unofficial English translation) Continued |  | v. Promote patients’ and caregivers’ rights | v.         | Ensure patients are aware of their own rights and the services available for them  
• Provide support to caregivers  
vi. Improve end-of-life care | vi.         | Establish training programs in palliative care for patients’ families and healthcare professionals  
• Provide information on end-of-life documents and legal, social and financial assistance | vii.       | Promote applied research studies  
• Collaborate with scientific groups and Public Health |  |  |
| The Netherlands<sup>(28)</sup> 2013–2020 | 2013–2020  
i. Improve healthcare to ensure good quality of life | i.          | Support patients to live at home as long as possible  
• Deltaplan Dementia  
• Organizations from healthcare, education, science, public, and professional services |  |  
85 M Euros has already been spent on dementia plan | Did not mention |
| Norway<sup>(29)</sup> 2016–2020 | 2016–2020  
i. Encourage patient and caregiver involvement in decision-making | i.          | Establish educational programs for patients  
• Develop quality indicators to improve consistency of care  
• Conduct patient surveys to assess quality of services  
• Norwegian government  
• Directorate of Health  
• County governors  
• State Housing Bank |  |  
• Government grants provided to municipalities  
• State Housing Bank will fund assisted living facilities  
• Directorate of Health will provide leadership  
• County governors will guide municipalities to make appropriate changes to dementia care services  
• National survey of dementia services will be circulated every 4 years |  |
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Norway | (29) Continued | ii. Improve dementia prevention | ii. • Conduct home visits for older adults to promote dementia prevention • Reduce number of hip fractures in older adults and people with dementia | | | |
| | | iii. Provide timely diagnosis and follow-up | iii. • Assign “service coordinators” to patients • Create individual plans for patients | | | |
| | | iv. Enable people with dementia to live active lives and provide support to caregivers | iv. • Propose amendment to Social Services Act: municipalities need to offer day programs to people living at home with dementia by January 2020 • Establish flexible respite services • Strengthen cooperation with voluntary sector | | | |
| | | v. Ensure people with dementia have good quality of life and access to assisted living facilities | v. • Develop and evaluate models for home care services • Establish modern nursing homes and assisted living facilities with continuous care for patients • Improve end-of-life care | | | |
| Country              | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                 | Funding                                                                 | Implementation       |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Norway               | Continued    |                      | v. Strengthen research, knowledge and competence                              | • Launch information campaigns                                                               |                                                                        |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Develop training programs for relevant sectors                                             |                                                                        |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Develop practice methods of working in milieu therapy (psychotherapy involving therapeutic environmental changes) |                                                                        |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Promote research                                                                          |                                                                        |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Provide dementia training for people with minority backgrounds or languages                |                                                                        |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Encourage municipalities to develop local dementia plans                                   |                                                                        |                      |
| Northern Ireland     | 2011         |                      | i. Reduce risk or delay onset of dementia                                      | • Promote prevention and healthy lifestyles                                                  | • Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety              | Did not mention      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Encourage primary care professionals to offer lifestyle advice and early diagnosis         | • Health and Social Care Board                                                      | Did not mention      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Develop protocols for referral to specialists                                               | • Public Health Agency                                                 |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Develop educational resources for general population                                       | • Health and Social Care Trusts                                           |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Ensure memory clinics offer a minimum range of services                                   | • Dementia Services Development Centre                                         |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              | • Assess effectiveness of memory services                                                   | • Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority                             |                      |
|                      |              |                      |                                                                              |                                                                                             | • Local commissioning groups                                           |                      |
| Country       | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                                                                                   | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                 | Funding                                      | Implementation |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Northern Ireland<sup>30</sup> Continued |   |                      | iv. Increase support for patients                                                                                                             | iv. • Create individual care plans for patients                                               |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | • Audit all dementia services and facilities                                                                                                  | • Establish framework for palliative and end-of-life care                                      |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | • Develop care pathways for younger people with dementia and patients with learning disabilities                                             | • Develop care pathways for younger people with dementia and patients with learning disabilities|                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | v. Support caregivers                                                                                                                          | v. • Encourage caregiver involvement in patient discharge and home care planning              |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | vi. Initiate legislation changes                                                                                                             | vi. • Develop legislation protecting patients’ rights                                          |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | vii. Promote research                                                                                                                         | vii. • Continue to support dementia research                                                   |                                            |               |
| Puerto Rico<sup>31</sup> 2015-2025 (English Executive Summary used) |   |                      | i. Initiate public policy                                                                                                                    | i. • Create public policy to guarantee access to services for patients and caregivers         | Did not mention                           | Did not mention |
|              |              |                      | • Assess current laws to ensure the needs of patients and caregivers are met                                                                    | • Develop protocol about elder abuse, specifically for those with dementia                    |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | ii. Initiate public health efforts and epidemiological surveillance                                                                          | ii. • Promote research and surveillance of patients                                             |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | • Increase reporting of dementia by doctors and hospitals by 50%                                                                             | • Increase surveillance of elder abuse and mistreatment                                          |                                            |               |
|              |              |                      | • Increase surveillance of elder abuse and mistreatment                                                                                       |                                                                                              |                                            |               |
| Country          | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding                                                                 | Implementation |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Puerto Rico      | (31)         | English Executive Summary used) Continued | iii. Improve home and community caregiving services | i. Improve access to home and community services | Increase awareness via health promotion, education and communication | vii. Improve long-term care financing | i. Increase access to long-term care | i. Increase access to long-term care |
|                  |              |                      | iv. Improve education and training                                           | ii. Create service directory | Host annual educational events | ii. Increase awareness of patients’ needs | ii. Promote inclusion of patients when creating public policy for long-term care | ii. Improve availability of insurance coverage | ii. Encourage more long-term care facilities to use intervention protocols for patients |
|                  |              |                      | v. Improve diagnosis and treatment                                           | iii. Conduct needs-based assessment to identify barriers to access | Collaborate with academia to integrate dementia awareness into associated curricula | iii. Improve diagnosis and treatment | iii. Conduct needs-based assessment to identify barriers to diagnosis and treatment | iii. Reduce financial burden on caregivers via tax incentives | iii. Reduce financial burden on caregivers via tax incentives |
| Country  | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| **Scotland**<sup>32</sup> | 2017-2020 | i. Support patient autonomy | i. • Improve delivery of post-diagnostic services • Evaluate relocation of post-diagnostic dementia services to primary care locations | • Scottish Government • Minister for Mental Health • Alzheimer’s Scotland • Convention of Local Scottish Authorities • Scottish Dementia Working Group • National Dementia Carers Action Network | Did not mention | • Will establish a national governing structure to oversee implementation |
| | | ii. Improve access to quality, individualized care | iii. • Offer all newly diagnosed patients minimum of 1-year post-diagnostic support • Establish more therapeutic home care services • Implement assistive technologies for home living | | | |
| | | iii. Enable individuals to live at home safely | iv. • Evaluate “Alzheimer Scotland’s Advanced Care Dementia Palliative and End-of-Life Care Model” • Identify improvements in delivery and access to care | | | |
| | | iv. Improve access to palliative and end-of-life care | v. • Continue to build partnerships with caregivers and community organizations | | | |
| | | v. Support caregivers | vi. • Support clinical and non-clinical research • Implement “Promoting Excellence” framework in both health and social sector workforces • Ensure all patients and caregivers have access to assistive technology for independent living | | | |
| | | | vii. Promote dementia-friendly communities | vii. Encourage and support individuals with dementia to participate in community | | |

*TABLE 2.* Continued
| Country     | Years Active  | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                 | Involvement of Stakeholders                                         | Funding                        | Implementation                      |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Switzerland | (33) 2014-2017 | i. Increase awareness | i. Host public educational activities • Create information materials for those who interact with individuals with dementia • Provide personalized information and counselling for patients | • Federal Office of Public Health • Swiss Conference of Guidelines • Cantonal Directors of Health | Did not mention                | • Led by a coordination committee |

ii. Provide needs-appropriate services

ii. Establish accessible network of diagnostic services • Promote use of interdisciplinary care teams to provide individualized care • Establish and expand respite services for both day and overnight care • Ensure care in both acute hospitals and long-term care facilities is catered to meet patients' needs

iii. Promote quality and professional skills

iii. Provide quality and ethical care to patients • Expand education of healthcare professionals, volunteers, and caregivers to include necessary skills to care for dementia patients

iv. Promote data and knowledge transfer

iv. Determine feasibility of a care monitoring system to be included in health statistics • Continue scientific evaluation of new treatment and care • Establish online network to allow for knowledge translation and dissemination
| Country | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions | Involvement of Stakeholders | Funding | Implementation |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Taiwan  | 2013        | (English summary used) | i. Increase awareness | • Ministry of Health and Welfare | Did not mention | Did not mention |
|         |             |                      | i.           |                             |         |                |
|         |             |                      | • Promote public knowledge to lower the risk of dementia and facilitate early referral and assessment  
|         |             |                      |             | • Launch educational initiatives to reduce stigma and promote dementia-friendly communities  
|         |             |                      |             | • • Provide multi-disciplinary care  
|         |             |                      |             | • Establish community network to support patients and caregivers  
|         |             |                      |             | • Develop early intervention programs and social interaction to delay functional deterioration  
|         |             |                      |             | • Increase healthcare professionals’ competency in dementia evaluation  
|         |             |                      |             | • Increase access to diagnosis and treatment services  
|         |             |                      |             | • Provide education regarding dementia prevention, treatment and care  
|         |             |                      |             | • Improve prevention, treatment and early diagnosis  |
| Country                        | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Taiwan**<sup>34)</sup>      |              |                      | | vi. Promote patients’ and caregivers’ rights | vi. Review and update policy regarding individuals with dementia • Build policy in conjunction with patients and families • Develop quality benchmarks to ensure good provision of service • Involve non-government stakeholders in decision-making |
| (English summary used)        |              |                      | | vii. Promote research | vii. Monitor population at national and community levels for policy and advocating initiatives • Support national and international research |
| **United States of America**<sup>35)</sup> | 2012-2025  | i. Prevent and effectively treat dementia by 2025 | | i. Identify research opportunities for prevention and treatment • Host research summits with national and international scientists • Disseminate research to promote uptake into practice, to inform research initiatives, and to educate public | | Department of Health and Human Services • Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services | | Funding | Implementation |
|                               |              |                      | | • 156 M USD from the Obama administration • 130 M USD for research • 26 M USD for supporting patients and their families, as well as to develop education for public and healthcare professionals | | • Will be led by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services • Strategy to be updated annually |
|                               |              |                      | | ii. Improve quality and efficiency of dementia care | | • Educate healthcare professionals with knowledge and necessary skills • Encourage healthcare professionals to pursue geriatric specialties • Promote diagnostic services to the public • Disseminate diagnostic assessment tools among healthcare professionals | |
| Country                           | Years Active | Framework Conditions | Key Actions                                                                                                                                           | Involvement of Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Funding                                                                 | Implementation                                                                 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| United States of America<sup>(35)</sup> Continued |              |                     | iii. Increase support for patients and families                                                                                                       | • Educate healthcare professionals about long-term services and supports • Improve support for caregivers                                                                                                                     |                                                                        |                                                                                |
|                                  |              |                     | iv. Increase awareness                                                                                                                                 | • Develop national initiatives                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                        |                                                                                |
|                                  |              |                     | v. Track progress of strategy to drive improvements                                                                                                   | • Identify areas for improvement in major policies and public health data collection                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                        |                                                                                |
| Wales<sup>(36)</sup>              | 2011         |                     | i. Improve service provision                                                                                                                        | • Employ dementia clinical coordinators to support patients • Improve care for patients in hospital wards • Establish a new service for younger patients                                                                                                           | Welsh Assembly Government • Alzheimer’s Society • Local government • Volunteer sector • National Health Service Wales | • Led by the Mental Health Programme Board                                                                                       |
|                                  |              |                     | ii. Increase information available for patients and caregivers                                                                                       | • Ensure bilingual provision of services • Establish dementia care helpline • Include dementia care in the Welsh Government Prescription Scheme                                                                                                         |                                                                        |                                                                                |
|                                  |              |                     | iii. Increase awareness                                                                                                                               | • Launch health campaigns                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                        |                                                                                |
|                                  |              |                     | iv. Improve training for service providers of dementia care                                                                                           | • Provide dementia training for healthcare professionals and social care workers • Create resources to help caregivers                                                                                                             |                                                                        |                                                                                |
|                                  |              |                     | v. Promote research                                                                                                                                    | • Offer funding to support dementia research                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                        |                                                                                |
Increase Awareness

The NDS of 18 countries (Australia, Czech Republic, England, Finland, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA, Wales) aimed to increase awareness of dementia by providing more education and information to families and the community. Some countries also planned to launch awareness campaigns and create dementia-friendly communities, thereby promoting prevention and allowing for facilitation of early referral and assessment. In particular, Finland and Ireland had unique actions by which they hoped to raise awareness of dementia. Finland developed an online portal with information about memory loss (www.muisti.fi), while Ireland implemented “The National Physical Activity Plan” to promote healthy lifestyles involving regular physical activity.

Reduce Stigma

Six countries (Cuba, Czech Republic, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta) aimed to reduce the stigma surrounding dementia through awareness campaigns. For example, Cuba planned to launch dementia campaigns, television and radio programs, and health-promotion activities, along with establishing annual events for “World Alzheimer’s Day” on September 21.

Identify Support Services

Identifying and establishing support services for patients and caregivers was a common priority among 14 countries (Australia, Cuba, Czech Republic, England, France, Greece, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, USA, Wales). These countries planned to provide psychological support to caregivers by creating support networks and promoting peer support. In addition, France, Israel, and Wales established telephone helplines for caregivers, while France also created a website containing information and advice. The Czech Republic is the only country that also included in its NDS the need to provide financial support to caregivers, by establishing a financial support system for all caregivers, as well as providing support for employed people who are informal caregivers.

In terms of providing support services for patients, countries had varying means of achieving this goal. Several countries appointed a professional to support patients throughout the disease trajectory—England established the new role of a “dementia adviser” to serve as a point of contact for patients and caregivers; France appointed coordinators to facilitate connections between health-care professionals (HCPs) caring for patients; Wales employed “dementia clinical coordinators” to support patients. Japan approached this priority from a different angle by encouraging the public to become involved in supporting individuals with dementia. 5.8 million Japanese volunteers, known as “dementia supporters”, had already completed an accredited program to learn how to support patients and families, and the Japanese NDS aimed to increase the number of “dementia supporters” to 8 million people. Japan also established neighbourhood “watch networks” to help patients who wander. Meanwhile, France, Northern Ireland, and Wales all prioritized increasing support for younger adults with dementia, while France and Northern Ireland also focused on patients with behavioural problems and learning disabilities, respectively. Scotland planned to improve support for all newly diagnosed patients by offering a minimum of one-year, post-diagnostic support. Norway hoped to better support people with dementia living at home, and thus proposed an amendment to the Social Services Act to mandate all municipalities to offer day programs to these patients by 2020. Norway is also the only country that aimed to establish educational programs specifically for patients.

Improve Care

Improving dementia care is also a notable framework condition listed by all of the countries, although details varied slightly by country. In general, improving the quality of care included promoting multi-disciplinary care for patients, and assessing and increasing the ease of access to services via dementia-friendly communities and guidance resources. The NDSs of Australia, Cuba, Czech Republic, England, Finland, and France wanted to standardize care by implementing clinical guidelines and/or developing explicit care pathways for the management and care of patients. Additionally, Finland planned to provide 24-hour care to patients. Australia and England aimed to improve care in hospitals by establishing dementia-specific health-care teams. Likewise, several countries (England, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Norway) appointed a specialized HCP to lead quality improvement of services and coordinate dementia care for patients. Finally, Australia, Czech Republic, and Norway had unique processes to improve dementia care. Australia aims to improve access to end-of-life and palliative care by promoting advance care planning after diagnosis of dementia. Interestingly, Czech Republic is the only NDS to establish standardized rules for assessing the ability of dementia patients to drive safely. Finally, Norway’s priority is to conduct home visits for older adults to promote dementia prevention.

Improve Training and Education for HCPs

Improving training and education for HCPs was a priority in 16 countries’ NDSs (Australia, Cuba, Czech Republic, England, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Malta, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, USA, Wales). Cuba, Czech Republic, Mexico, Korea, and USA specified an aim to increase the number of dementia specialists by including geriatrics training in undergraduate and graduate curricula for related specialties. In particular, Korea set a goal of increasing the number of HCPs specialized in caring for dementia patients to 6,000 by 2012. While the aforementioned NDSs
focused on offering courses for those training to be HCPs. Cuba also aimed to offer refresher courses about dementia for HCPs, while Greece offered clinical and research scholarships. In contrast, Ireland and Israel focused on training general practitioners on the diagnosis and management of dementia care.

**Promote Research**

The NDSs of 17 countries (Australia, Cuba, Czech Republic, England, France, Greece, Israel, Japan, Malta, Mexico, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Taiwan, USA, Wales) also aimed to promote dementia research, to better identify risk factors and develop diagnostic tools. In addition, Australia and Cuba specified the following topics as areas of interest for dementia research: causes, incidence rates, diagnosis, treatment, and a cure. The United States also included the goal of effectively treating dementia by 2025. Finally, England and the USA planned to host research summits with national and international scientists involved in dementia research.

**Funding for NDS**

Funding for the NDS was specified by 13 of the 25 countries (52%) (Australia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, USA, Wales); however, only six (Australia, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, USA, Wales) of these countries disclosed the amount of funding received. The United States received 156 million USD from the Obama administration (prior to 2017) for their NDS, of which 130 million USD is devoted to research and the remaining 26 million USD for supporting patients, families, and HCPs. Australia has specified that they have a 200 million AUD budget provided by the national government for their NDS, which includes 50 million AUD to establish a National Institute for Dementia Research. France has received a total of 1.2 billion Euros of funding from the health insurance system and the National Fund for the Autonomy of Elderly and Disabled People, including 200 million Euros for improving health care and another 200 million Euros for research. Other European countries have supported the NDS to the magnitude of 105,000 Euros for Ireland in the first year of the strategy, 85 million Euros for The Netherlands, and additional funding of 1.5 million Pounds annually for Wales.

**Implementation of NDS**

The following 16 countries specified in the NDS how their strategy will be implemented: Cuba, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Scotland, Switzerland, USA, Wales. Most of the plans for implementation were vague, with the exceptions of Cuba and Finland, which both included very well-structured and detailed plans. In Cuba, the National Directorate of Primary Health Care and the Department of the Elderly, Mental Health, and Social Welfare were responsible for the overall coordination of the key actions outlined in the NDS. Specific key actions of research, training HCPs, and developing public educational messages were further delegated to related organizations listed in Table 2. Likewise, a number of governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in Finland were assigned relevant responsibilities for implementing the NDS. In addition, France committed to monitor and report the progress of its NDS every six months, while Cuba, Czech Republic, England, and the USA tracked their progress on an annual basis.

**DISCUSSION**

This review comprehensively lists the components of 25 of the 29 countries with a NDS, and reports the overarching themes that present across all strategies. To our knowledge, this is the first review to summarize and synthesize all of these NDSs in a single report. The results within, especially the similarities between the strategies, may be of great interest to policy-makers, HCPs, and other key stakeholders involved with Canada’s forthcoming NDS.

Most NDSs had five major framework conditions: increasing awareness of dementia, identifying support services, improving the quality of dementia care, as well as improving training and education and promoting research. While not a component of the majority of NDSs, another common theme was reducing stigma. Some countries explicitly described the actions they will take to accomplish these objectives (i.e., England), while others list vague actions (i.e., Indonesia). Unfortunately, only a few countries have had follow-up studies evaluating the effectiveness of their NDS, while discussing ways to improve the strategy. When establishing Canada’s NDS, we would recommend investigating the efficacy of the NDSs of other countries further, and looking into which of, and under what circumstances, the aforementioned major framework conditions are effective. However, successes in other countries may or may not apply in Canada, given differences in health-care systems. In particular, because health care in Canada is primarily a provincial and territorial responsibility, Canada’s NDS will require extraordinary cooperation across governments.

Notably, all G7 countries have disclosed that they have dedicated tremendous financial resources towards their NDSs, ranging from 156 million USD by the United States of America to 1.2 billion Euros by France. It would be interesting to study the effectiveness of these NDSs to determine if there is a positive correlation between financial resources and efficacy. It is, however, important to note that France offers a universal health-care system, while the United States does not. Hence, the French government likely needs to take on a greater financial burden. Nevertheless, Canada should be prepared to dedicate significant resources towards an NDS, as a country that also has a universal health-care system.
Some might argue that since health care is a provincial responsibility, each Canadian province should have their own local strategies, and indeed all ten provinces have already developed, or are currently developing, their own dementia strategies—British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and most recently Ontario. Unfortunately, the delivery of health-care services to dementia patients and their caregivers is only one component of a comprehensive dementia strategy, and many other components including education, awareness, and de-stigmatization would clearly benefit from a national approach in contrast to a local patchwork of strategies. Canada, in particular, must also pay special attention to dementia in Indigenous communities, a problem which crosses provincial boundaries, and which has been a remarkably understudied area of research.

Another key lesson to be learned from a review of these NDSs is the process of NDS development and, in particular, the identification of key stakeholders. These include all appropriate federal government ministries (e.g., Health; Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour; Finance; Canadian Heritage; Indigenous Services), provincial representatives, Canadian Institute for Health Research, Alzheimer’s Society of Canada, Canadian Medical Association, specialist physician groups (Neurology, Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, Geriatric Medicine, Palliative Care), Canadian Nurses Association, and individual patients and caregivers, where appropriate. This list is far from complete and consideration should also be given to the inclusion of other potentially valuable contributors, including, for example, pharmacists, home care service providers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, insurance agency representatives, and pension plan mangers. We strongly support the inclusion of specific milestones and a pre-determined evaluation process. A Canadian NDS can take advantage of established organizations to provide research into the strategy’s effectiveness, including the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging.

In 2016, the Canadian government authorized the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to assess and report on the current issue of dementia in Canada. Within the report, the need for a National Dementia Strategy was emphasized. As noted by the Alzheimer Society of Canada, “…we are far behind other countries in our approach to [the issue of dementia], being one of only two G7 countries (along with Germany) that do not have a comprehensive national dementia strategy”. The Senate Standing Committee, therefore, made 29 recommendations for a National Dementia Strategy, as summarized in Table 3. Reassuringly, many of the initiatives and themes discussed above, including important process issues (e.g., appropriate stakeholder involvement, specified funding) and priorities (e.g., public awareness), were mentioned in this document, though many specific details were lacking.

As noted in the Introduction, it is not clear why it has taken Canada so long to develop a NDS. As with all public policy development, there are always competing interests and other political considerations, especially when considerable financial resources are involved. We have already discussed the provincial/territorial jurisdictional issues. Finally, it is possible that ageism and stigma have also played a role in Canada’s delayed response.

A limitation of this review is that some of the listed 29 countries did not have an easily accessible document that could be translated into English for inclusion in this review. For the NDSs included in our review that were translated from a foreign language, the unofficial English translations used may not accurately represent the original NDS.

**CONCLUSION**

Our review was able to comprehensively list and compare 25 of the 29 countries with National Dementia Strategies. The results suggest five major priorities that are covered by most NDSs: increasing awareness, establishing support services, improving standard of care, improving training and education for HCPs, and promoting research. We hope that policy-makers in Canada will review these NDSs, learn from their examples, and develop an effective NDS for our country.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Dr. Nathan Herrmann is funded in part by the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, supported by the Canadian Institute of Health Research and its partners.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

Unrelated to the current study, Dr. Herrmann has received research funding from Lundbeck, Roche and Axovant and consultation fees from Merck, Lilly, Astellas and Mediti. The authors declare that no conflicts of interest exist.

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| Recommendation | Action Item |
|---------------|-------------|
| **1** | • Establish the Canadian Partnership to Address Dementia  
        • Include a mandate to create and implement a National Dementia Strategy |
| **2** | • Model the Canadian Partnership to Address Dementia after the approach taken in the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer  
        • Include the following stakeholders in the new dementia partnership  
          o Federal, provincial, and territorial governments  
          o Dementia and other health-related organizations  
          o Individuals with dementia  
          o Caregivers  
          o Healthcare professionals  
          o Housing organizations  
          o Researchers  
          o Indigenous community  
        • Evaluate, report on, and update the National Dementia Strategy annually  
        • Federal government funding of at least $30 M annually for the Canadian Partnership to Address Dementia |
| **3** | • Adjust the annual government funding provided to the Canadian Partnership to Address Dementia according to annual evaluations and strategy updates |
| **4** | • Use the following documents when creating the National Dementia Strategy:  
          o *The Canadian Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Partnership: Strategic Objectives* (Alzheimer Society of Canada)  
          o *Improving Dementia Care Worldwide: Ideas and Advice on Developing and Implementing a National Dementia Plan* (Alzheimer’s Disease International)  
        • Federal government funding of approximately $100 M annually for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s Dementia Research Strategy |
| **5** | • Develop a public awareness campaign that promotes the following items  
          o Dementia Friends Canada website  
          o Prevention  
          o Early diagnosis  
          o Symptom recognition  
          o Quality of life  
          o Services  
          o Supports  
        • Develop public awareness campaigns on healthy eating and active lifestyles |
| **6** | • Adequate federal government funding for the Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance Program  
        • Aim to provide robust, timely and accessible dementia surveillance data beginning in 2017 |
| **7** | • Encourage the implementation of the Alzheimer Society of Canada’s First Link® early intervention program |
| **8** | • Federal government should explore fiscal options to alleviate the financial burden on informal caregivers  
        • Possible options:  
          o Expand the Employment Insurance compassionate care benefit beyond palliative care  
          o Amend the Caregiver Tax Credit and the Family Caregiver Tax Credit to make them refundable  
        • Promote workplace best practices to support employees who are caregivers |
| **9** | • Provide the following additional supports for caregivers  
          o Education and training  
          o Respite services  
          o Online portal with information about dementia programs and initiatives  
        • Federal government funding of $3 B over 4 years for a comprehensive package of home care services |
| **10** | • Routinely evaluate and report on the use of government funding for home care services  
        • Provide annual, success-based adjustments to funding |
| **11** | • Assess the need for home care funding beyond the initial 4-year period |
TABLE 3. Continued

| Recommendation | Action Item |
|----------------|-------------|
| 16             | • Promote innovative technologies and the Home-Care-Plus model (integrates specialists in dementia care into home care) |
| 17             | • Assess the fiscal barriers preventing the integration of health and social services |
|                | • Implement the changes needed to successfully integrate health and social services |
| 18             | • Establish targets for implementing electronic health and prescription drug systems |
|                | • Promote the use of electronic databases by healthcare professionals |
|                | • Report on the progress of implementing these electronic systems |
| 19             | • Promote models of dementia care that integrate healthcare delivery (e.g. Dementia-plus Care Model) |
|                | • Integrate social services into dementia care |
|                | • Promote advance care planning for palliative and end-of-life care |
| 20             | • Federal government funding of $450 M to develop more continuing care infrastructure |
| 21             | • Examine and update as necessary the staffing, care, and accommodation standards in seniors’ residences |
|                | • Improve access to seniors’ housing |
| 22             | • Assess and promote models of dementia care for rural and remote communities |
| 23             | • Expedite federal government funding for rural and remote communities |
| 24             | • Support the Home and Community Care Program by Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch |
| 25             | • Develop standards of care for acute-care hospitals |
| 26             | • Provide dementia care training and professional development for healthcare professionals |
| 27             | • Develop a Best Practices Portal for providers of dementia care |
| 28             | • Consider the programs and practices listed in the report for inclusion in the Best Practices Portal |
| 29             | • Include individuals with dementia in all aspects of the Canadian Partnership to Address Dementia |

*Adapted from Reference #54.

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