

BREAKING

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Dementia crisis: Next crucial steps in



A possible breakthrough has been made in slowing the effects of Alzheimer's in the form of a drug currently undergoing clinical trials.

Australia is facing a dementia crisis of huge proportions, with the condition

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system, experts have warned.

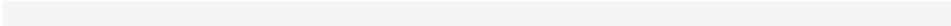
Dementia Australia, the national peak body for those living with the disease, **More related stories** has issued a stark warning ahead of the upcoming federal election, calling for a national conversation around raising awareness of the condition.

It came as the CEO of Actinogen Medical, [the company behind a promising new treatment](#) that slows down the course of Alzheimer's disease, called for the introduction of a national screening program to detect the condition, saying Australia faces a critical juncture in dementia treatment and care.

According to figures from Dementia Australia, an estimated 433,300 Australians live with dementia, which is the leading cause of death for



People living with dementia wait longer in hospitals to get access to specialist care than someone who doesn't have dementia. The length of stay in hospital is five times longer than for someone without dementia.” Now, having lived with dementia for several years, I can share that one of my greatest concerns is not my memory loss. This is what it is instead.



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Dr Steven Gourlay, CEO of Actinogen Medical.

Prefecting Buchanan said Dementia Australia is calling for the greater promotion of brain health at all ages, as well as the establishment of a team of dementia specialist care co-ordinators within Dementia Australia to deliver

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"We cannot change getting older, genetics or family history, however scientific research shows that looking after our brain health can make a big difference to reducing or delaying the risk of developing dementia," she said.

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throughout our lives in order to reduce the risk of dementia."

Geelong

Dr Steven Gourlay, the CEO of Actinogen Medical, warned that if an effective treatment is approved, GP fast-track on



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With next-generation treatments such Xanamem, which is currently in the trial phase, demonstrating the ability to prevent or stabilise dementia before **Happy Hawks': Prime Minister appeals to nation** **How many properties people can be proactive and take measures to slow down the prog** **Australia's own** **own** disease, he said.



Geelong

Dr Gourlay referred to the case of Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth, who Ford's military style You famously overhauled his d **Big banks' major threat amid RBA rates decision** **docuseries.**





Australian actor Chris Hemsworth. Picture: Getty Images

Similar to Australia's bowel cancer screening program, a dementia screening program could involve sending approved diagnostic tests, such as a specially tailored blood test, to individuals over the age of 60, he said.

"Before there is a broad screening program, there would have to be a lot of work done to prove that it was cost effective to the government," he said.

"But in the beginning, the first phase of the screening would be to make the blood test diagnostic available to patients with a family history.

"Right now there's no approved therapy in Australia that can change the disease or modify it other than exercise.

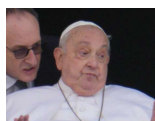
"But we do need to start having a conversation about it because these next-generation treatments, such as Xanomem, are not very far way."

Dementia Australia Advisory Committee Chair Ann Pietsch, who lives with Lewy body dementia, said raising awareness and educating people about dementia was of paramount importance for all Australians.

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Originally published as [Dementia crisis: Next crucial steps in fight against killer disease](#)

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