



Office of Hon Peter Dunne

MP for Ohariu

Minister of Internal Affairs

Associate Minister of Health

Associate Minister of Conservation

20 JUN 2016

Ms Victoria Hinson
Chair
National Ethics Advisory Committee
c/- NEAC Secretariat
Strategy and Policy Business Unit
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington

Dear Ms Hinson

Thank you for the National Ethics Advisory Committee's recent advice to me, titled *NEAC's advice on dementia and draft guidelines for families*. The extensive report represents a significant investment of effort by Committee members.

The intent of this letter is to provide the Committee with a response to the recommendations and particularly to the recommendation to develop a dementia action plan with specific actions and measures made in your report.

I acknowledge and agree that work is needed on an ongoing basis in building support in communities, planning ahead, supporting families, whanau and friends, delivering quality health and social support services and developing a skilled health and social support workforce.

I agree too that we need to ensure we have prioritised the actions needed to improve the lives of people with dementia and their families and whanau over the next three to five years and beyond.

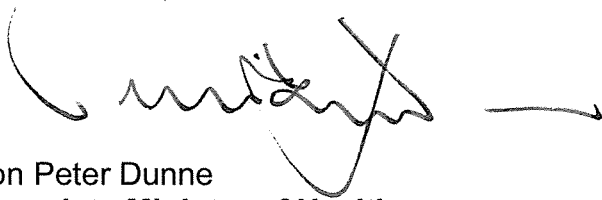
You will be aware that the Ministry of Health has been undertaking engagement processes to update the Health of Older People Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy will set the future directions and actions on the health and wellbeing of older people, including people with dementia and their families and whanau.

Not all people with dementia will be older people, for example Maori and people with intellectual disabilities are likely to develop dementia at an earlier life stage. However, the Strategy provides an excellent opportunity to identify priority actions to be carried out in the short, medium and longer term to make solid progress on improving the care and support for older people with dementia and their families and whanau.

I understand that the Strategy engagement processes so far have identified a number of priorities for improvements to dementia care and support.

I will therefore direct the Ministry to ensure that gives detailed and careful consideration to all of NEAC's recommendations laid out in the report, along with all input it receives throughout its engagement and consultation processes. I understand that public consultation on a draft Strategy will begin a little later in the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dunne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Peter Dunne
Associate Minister of Health