



29 March 2012

Dementia research funding to more than double to £66m by 2015

As the next decade is set to see the number of people suffering from Dementia hit 1 million, David Cameron outlined this week, his measures to tackle this 'national crisis'. He announced a doubling of research funding to try and make the UK a world leader in the field. Sir Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust, welcomed the additional research funds saying, "Rising to this challenge will require excellence in medical research, so we can better understand the biology of dementia and use that insight to improve diagnosis and treatment."

The NACC also welcomes this extra funding for research, but takes this opportunity to identify the need for research into the links between good nutrition and hydration in the support of those with Dementia and the possibility of making it possible to stabilise and prolong the ability for people to live in their own homes.

The dementia challenge, however, will not be resolved by sciences alone. It will also require infrastructure support across services and in particular social care, so that people suffering dementia can be helped to live at home for longer and supported appropriately once they move into residential care.

Good nutrition is a basic human right and people with dementia have the same rights as any one of us whether in the community or in residential care. There have been many cases highlighted in the news of examples of poor nutrition and hydration and these can be exacerbated where people have dementia. This week the NACC are launching their CQC Outcome 5 Meeting nutritional needs toolkit which will give all those supporting people, including those with dementia the information they need to meet all of the required criteria of good nutritional care.

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

The National Association of Care Catering (NACC) is a progressive organisation representing professionals providing catering to the care industry. They are recognised by Local Authorities, independent providers, the charitable sector and Government departments as a prime source of information and opinion on all aspects of catering within the care sector and whose primary aim is to improve standards.

The NACC works with a number of partners to:

- To promote and enrich the standard of catering within the care sector, whether that catering be provided by Social Care Departments or other Caring Agencies
- To provide a forum for debate among individuals, companies and organisations of all kinds involved in catering for the care sector
- To facilitate the exchange of information, experience and expertise
- To promote the development of professional standards among those involved in catering for the care sector
- To commission research into matters relating to catering for the care sector
- To publish guidelines, policy papers and authoritative statements on all aspects of catering for the care sector.