



**World Dementia  
Council** Leading the Global Action  
Against Dementia

# World Dementia Council Global Care Statement

## Statement on Importance of Care and Support



All persons affected by dementia - those living with the diseases that cause it, their care partners, and their family and friends - have a right to receive the highest quality care and support possible to meet their needs. They have the human right to be treated with dignity and respect. And they are entitled to full and effective participation and inclusion in society. These rights transcend national boundaries and cultures.

Person-centered, high-quality care and support should respond to the unique, individual needs of each person and include rehabilitation and disability support. It should be delivered by well-trained individuals, whether professionals or family and friend care partners.

Such care and support can result in improved health outcomes and quality of life, enhanced comfort, and decreased stress for persons living with dementia. For their care partners, it can enhance their health and strengthen the informal support system. And, by lessening the burden on health and long-term care systems, it can help to lower costs.

# Principles of High-Quality Care and Support

To ensure the right to high-quality care and support for people living with dementia and their care partners, the following principles should guide the provision of care and support in all countries:

1. Individuals receive a timely and accurate diagnosis - and are told of that diagnosis and its realistic consequences. This is the gateway to making informed personal life decisions and decisions about medical treatment.
2. People living with dementia are entitled to respect and dignity with full recognition that dementia in no way diminishes the personhood of the individual who has it.
3. Communities are inclusive of people living with dementia, thus ensuring the opportunity for participation and engagement by those living with dementia, and empowering and enabling them to remain in the community as long as possible.
4. Care is person- and relationship-centered. Person-centered care is a philosophy of care based on knowing the person, developing and maintaining authentic relationships, providing a supportive, culturally-sensitive environment that includes opportunities for meaningful engagement, and recognizing the person's reality and individual needs.
5. The provision of person-centered care is based on continuous assessment and individualized care planning designed to maximize independence, develop effective strategies for communication, minimize behavioral and psychological symptoms, and identify available support for people living with dementia and their care partners.
6. People living with dementia and their care partners are involved as active participants in care planning and decision making and have access to information and support throughout the continuum of their disease from diagnosis to end of life.
7. Medical and care professionals have adequate knowledge of all aspects of dementia and work across disciplines to ensure a holistic approach to disease management. This will ensure that people living with dementia are provided appropriate medical care, psychosocial care, and disability support - for both their dementia and their co-morbid conditions - throughout the course of the disease.
8. Care coordination and collaboration occurs between all care providers, including medical and allied health and social care professionals, health systems, family care partners, paid caregivers, community services, and volunteers. Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and patient advocacy groups have an important role in building collaboration among care providers and in monitoring and evaluating the care and support provided.



## Calls to Action

The World Dementia Council calls on governments and governing bodies in all countries of the world to adopt, implement, and ensure high-quality, person-centered care and support, including rehabilitation and disability support, for people living with dementia in a manner consistent with these principles.

The World Dementia Council further calls on all health and social care systems throughout the world, including care providers and payers, to fund and provide access to high-quality, person-centered dementia care and support services consistent with these principles.

For more information about the World Dementia Council please visit [www.worlddementiacouncil.org](http://www.worlddementiacouncil.org)