

Promoting Various Strategies for Dementia Prevention and Care Policy and Action Plan 2.0

January - June, 2024

Strategy 1. Recognize Dementia as a Public Health Priority

- I. With regards to the announcement of outcomes of the “Dementia Prevention and Care Policy and Action Plan 2.0”, the implementation outcomes and achievements of the whole year and the first half of the year are published in the Long-term Care Zone of the Ministry by the end of May and the end of October each year. Review meetings are held in March annually.
- II. In conjunction with relevant ministries, local governments, and non-governmental organizations, MOHW plans to organize the nationwide dementia prevention and care action plan results conference in the latter half of the year. All units concerned are expected to share and report their accomplishments with assigned duties in the agenda. The primary objective is to facilitate the adoption and execution of the dementia prevention and care policy agenda.
- III. Regarding laws and regulations on the protection of human rights for people with disabilities (including people with dementia), 98% of amendments have been completed. For the remainder, regulatory authorities have disseminated official communications and issued public statements on response measures.
- IV. To promote the right to work for people with dementia, the Ministry of Labor has facilitated the stable employment of 10 people with dementia and provided career services to 78 people with dementia, of whom 44, or 56%, were successfully employed.

- V. To create a dementia-friendly financial system, the Financial Supervisory Commission will incentivize financial institutions to promote old-age insurance, elderly care trusts, and commercial reverse mortgages. By the end of June 2024, 27 trust enterprises have provided elderly care trusts to 171,799 beneficiaries with principals worth NT\$ 12.57 billion. In addition, 16 banks have processed 8,302 applications for commercial reverse mortgages and granted NT\$ 47.27 billion in loan.

Strategy 2. Raise dementia awareness and friendliness

- I. The Health Promotion Administration (HPA) of MOHW has expanded subsidies for 22 local governments to implement dementia-friendly community plan, which aims to increase public awareness and prevention of dementia through literacy courses and advocacy events for specific venues and groups. Between January and June 2024, HPA collaborated with chiefs of villages to hold 1,646 community educational sessions, reaching over 50% of villages in Taiwan. As of 2024, over 4.58 million citizens and professional caregivers have engaged dementia advocacy courses and related activities, accounting for 19.6% of the total population in Taiwan.
- II. The HPA maintains subsidizes 22 local governments to foster dementia-friendly community plan, establishing 181 dementia-friendly communities in counties, cities, townships, and villages. Furthermore, HPA actively promotes and recruits dementia-friendly angels to enhance public understanding and respect for the rights of people with dementia, thereby volunteering their assistance. In 2024, over 30,100 people have newly registered the dementia-friendly angels, reaching 564,000 people all over Taiwan. Between January and June 2024, 1,841 groups firstly joined the dementia-friendly

organizations, achieving 17,000 groups finally. This growth can be attributed to a joint effort involving volunteers and public/private sectors.

- III. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has included tasks such as facilitating the development of teaching references related to dementia and conducting empowerment and advocacy activities on dementia-related thematic courses for the 2023 and 2024 academic years. This initiative involves a continuous utilization of a three-tiered support system -a Project Teacher of Curriculum & Instruction Consulting Team helping schools. to enhance the professional competence of junior high and elementary school teachers in dementia-related knowledge. The aim of this effort is to pave the way for implementing curriculum instruction focusing on dementia-related issues.
- IV. In terms of reinforcing the assistance provided by transport practitioners to people with dementia in taking public transit and education and communication projects, the Ministry of Transportation and Communication (MOTC) incorporated dementia literacy in training programs in the shipping business, the Taiwan Railways Administration, the Directorate General of Highways, and the Taiwan International Ports Corporation, Ltd so that transport practitioners can assist people with dementia in taking public transit and educate and communicate to them.
- V. The National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior (MOI) actively promotes voluntary collection of fingerprints to improve the recovery rate of missing people with dementia. During the first half of 2024, 999 or 99.6% of these 1,003 individuals were found.
- VI. MOI, the Department of Civil Affairs continuous to cooperate with the principal coordinators and co-organizers in raising awareness of support

dementia prevention and care policy.

Strategy 3. Reduce the risk of dementia

- I. The HPA of MOHW promotes the reduction of modifiable risks of dementia, which include obesity, diabetes, hypertension, insufficient physical activity, smoking, and excessive consumption of alcohol. Diversified dissemination such as press conferences, news releases, broadcasts, and online platforms is used to enhance people's health literacy and construct proper healthy lifestyles.
- II. As of June 2024, HPA has subsidized cities and counties across Taiwan to establish 101 Senior Health Promotion Stations, delivering comprehensive and consistent health services to the elderly.
- III. Under the direction of MOHW, city and county health bureaus across Taiwan organized 978 mental health promotion sessions (including advocacy for depression) for 29,361 participants from January to June 2024 to increase public literacy. Geriatric depression screenings, referrals with set standards, and follow-up services were provided to high-risk elders. Between January and June 2024, 2,800 of 626,345 individuals screened were referred for psychiatric treatment, 1,553 received psychological counseling, and 3,606 accessed additional services and resources.

Strategy 4. Comprehensive Dementia Diagnosis, Treatment, Care and Support Network

- I. MOHW has deployed 541 Support Centers for People with Dementia and their Families and 117 Integrated Dementia Care Centers. In terms of community-based care services, there are 1,048 daycare centers (including

centers for people with dementia and small-size multi-function services) and 32 group homes. In addition, 2,356 institutional dementia care beds have been allocated for dementia care in welfare institutions for the elderly, institutions for people with physical disability, nursing homes, veteran homes, and MOHW-affiliated hospitals.

- II. For the case management service rate among people with dementia, around 45,126 people were registered in the Dementia Care Service Management System of MOHW. Of these, 38,236 or 90% have Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD), whose families burdened by care responsibilities have received case management services.
- III. Regarding long-term care, 38,236 diagnosed with dementia by Integrated Dementia Care Centers are under case management. Of these, 18,475 or 48% have been assessed as persons with disabilities (levels 2 to 8) by the Long-term Care Management Center and are receiving long-term care services.
- IV. As of June 2024, 73,203 or 61% of 118,957 long-term care workers and medical staff had completed dementia care training.

Strategy 5. Support and Assistance to Family Caregivers of People with Dementia

- I. MOHW expanded Family Caregiver Support Service Stations to 131 sites over 22 cities and counties to train caregivers as well as organize activities for stress release and support groups.
- II. The Family Caregiver Hotline and the Dementia Care Hotline have served 2,487 and 4,494 individuals, respectively.

Strategy 6. Construction of Dementia Information Collection and Analysis

Platform

- I. A national dementia registration and monitoring system has been established, encompassing the “Dementia Care Service Management System” and the “Dementia Care Policy Control System”. An interface to connect the Management System with its Information platform has been developed.
- II. Regarding the dementia epidemiology survey, MOHW has authorized the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) to conduct the National Community Epidemiological Survey on Dementia. The research results include the prevalence rate of dementia among elderly people over 65 years old in the community is 7.99%. The older the age, the higher the prevalence rate of dementia; Alzheimer’s type is the most common type of dementia; the prevalence rate of dementia in women is higher than that in men; The rate of occurrence of any BPSD was 66.01%; compared with those without dementia, people with dementia had higher risks of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, number of medical visits and medical expenses.

Strategy 7. Promoting Innovative Dementia Research and Development

- I. With respect to national research on dementia, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) granted NT\$ 15.93943 million to fund 35 research projects on dementia in the first half of 2024. Furthermore, Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) project under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) granted NT\$ 1.46 million to 2 proposals from practitioners on innovative services concerning dementia. Industrial Development Administration, MOEA, allocated NT\$ 1.5 million to sponsor dementia protective care training program
- II. The National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) and Kaohsiung Medical

University jointly developed a dementia passport cloud system based on empirical medical data and 9 quality assurance items proposed by the American Academy of Neurology in 2015. It is presently being used by 1,247 individuals at 18 Integrated Dementia Care Centers, , as well as 366 individuals at 36 Support Centers for People with Dementia.

- III. According to search results with “dementia,” “cognitive function,” and “Alzheimer's disease” in the Government Research Bulletin (GRB) on July 30, 2024, there were 121 research projects on dementia prevention, diagnosis, epidemiology, and service models for the year.