

# Strengthening Dementia Care in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Communities

Venessa Curnow

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Liaison Officer, Alzheimer's Australia  
Director National Congress of Australia's  
First People



An Australian Government Initiative

12/12/2011



# Brief Background



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people diverse needs
- Demographic factors different to mainstream population
- Poor outcomes
- Strengths
- Prevalence and Risk factors for dementia within Indigenous Population.

# Beginning the Conversation: Addressing Dementia in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.



November 2006 Workshop Participants

# **Beginning the Conversation: Addressing Dementia in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.**

- Workshop in November 2006
- Preliminary research data started to discredit common assumptions
- Better evidence and better targeting of resources
- 7 Recommendations
- 6 Key Action Points

# **Beginning the Conversation: Addressing Dementia in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.**

1. Community Awareness and Prevention
2. Care and Support
3. Research
4. Diagnosis, Referral and Treatment
5. Workforce Issues
6. Partnerships and Collaborations

# National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Dementia Strategy 2010 - 2012

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dementia Advisory Group (NATSIDAG)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer
- Four Priorities

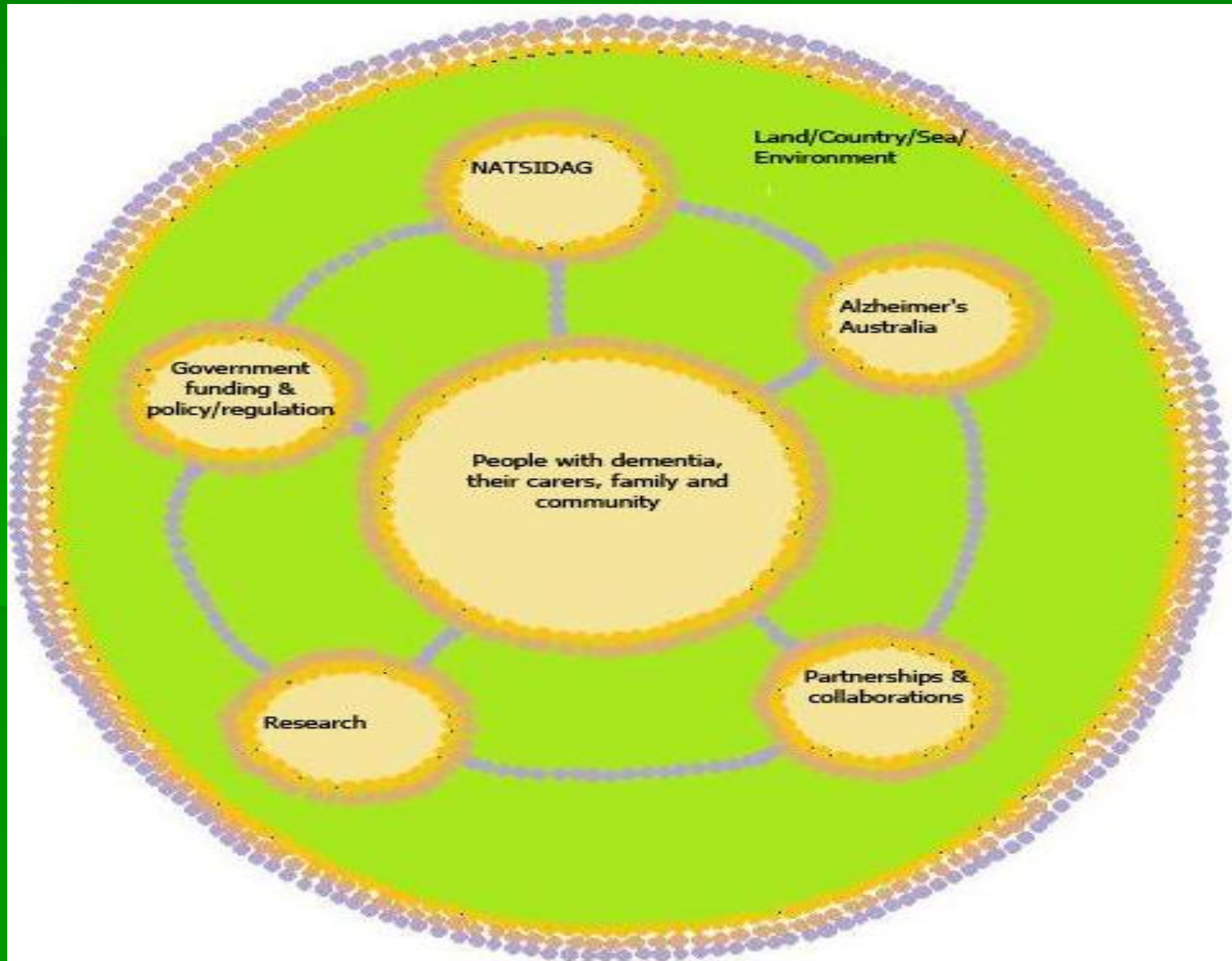


# Goal and Objective

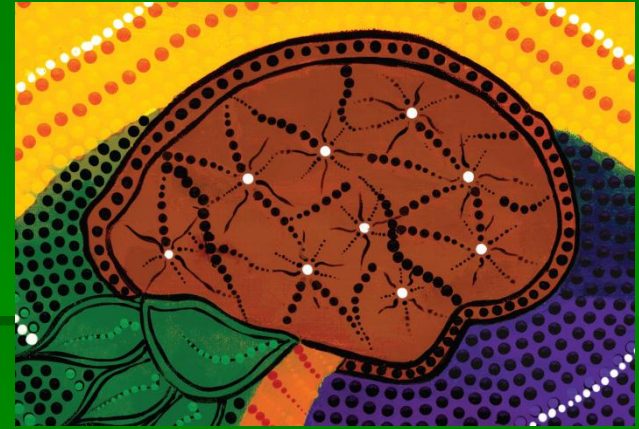


- Improving equity and access to culturally safe services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with dementia, their carers and families, and communities using a wellness approach to successful ageing.

# Organisation Structure



# Current Progress



-  Research - KICA
-  Dementia Learning Resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
-  Partnerships



# Current Progress



-  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dementia Newsletter
-  E-Learning Resources
-  Radio Segments
-  Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Medicine



# Further Info

-  [www.wacha.org.au/kica.html](http://www.wacha.org.au/kica.html) KICA tool
-  Australian Indigenous Health Infonet  
[www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/](http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/)
-  [www.alzheimers.org.au](http://www.alzheimers.org.au) Follow the links under  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Groups
-  Dementia Learning Resource for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Communities
-  [venessa.curnow@alzheimers.org.au](mailto:venessa.curnow@alzheimers.org.au) Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Dementia Newsletter
-  [www.nationalcongress.com.au](http://www.nationalcongress.com.au) National  
Congress of Australia's First Peoples.