



# Nevada

## 2015 Public Policy Platform

alzheimer's  association®

The Nevada State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease, adopted by the Legislature in 2013, includes several recommendations which, when implemented, will provide improved quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's in Nevada.

### We recommend that the Nevada legislature enact legislation to:

#### 1. Institute a statewide public awareness campaign to provide information about the earliest signs of dementia and eliminate the stigma of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

- ❖ Establish a statewide, web-based Alzheimer's information site to provide:
- ❖ For those with Alzheimer's and related disorders and their caregivers: information and referral, as well as links to updated, nonbiased information about the disease
- ❖ For professionals: assessment tools, guidelines for disease management, and care coordination or other disease management services

#### 2. Require dementia-specific training for all levels of health care professionals, including:

- ❖ First responders, law enforcement and fire department personnel
- ❖ All staff in residential care and skilled nursing facilities
- ❖ All Levels of medical personnel in hospitals including admissions and discharge planners
- ❖ Primary care physicians and nurses

An estimated 37,000 Nevadans aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's. A recent survey with the CDC found that

**NEARLY 160,000 NEVADANS AGED 45 AND OVER, 1 IN 7, REPORT THAT THEY ARE EXPERIENCING CONFUSION OR MEMORY LOSS** that is happening more often or is getting worse.



### 3. Expand supportive services for family caregivers, with particular focus on:

- ❖ Dementia training and education
- ❖ Transitions from hospital to home or other setting
- ❖ Structured support groups, and
- ❖ Respite care, with a special focus on expanded access in rural areas.

### 4. Reduce out of state placement by training family and professional caregivers to recognize and address treatable conditions and unmet needs (e.g., pain, discomfort, distress) in people with dementia.

- ❖ A growing body of literature indicates that some persons with dementia develop behaviors that are perceived as extreme, unpredictable, disruptive or aggressive because they lose the ability to describe and effectively address their physical and emotional needs. Training family and professional caregivers to understand how to assess for and manage treatable conditions so as to prevent or respond more effectively to challenging behaviors is a critical element in improving the quality of Alzheimer's care in Nevada.

***All of these policy efforts need to be designed and funded to apply to rural communities as well as urban areas.***

Data show that patients with chronic conditions and Alzheimer's are much more expensive than their counterparts without Alzheimer's:

**THREE TIMES MORE EXPENSIVE FOR MEDICARE AND 19 TIMES MORE FOR MEDICAID.**

**77% OF NEVADANS WITH MEMORY PROBLEMS HAVE AT LEAST ONE OTHER CHRONIC CONDITION** such

as arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease or diabetes.



#### About the Alzheimer's Association

**Our mission:** To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

**Our vision:** A world without Alzheimer's disease.

#### Contact the Alzheimer's Association:

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