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Submitted to **Consultation Paper for the National Preventive Health Strategy**
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Development of the National Preventive Health Strategy

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MND Australia

Vision and Aims of the Strategy

4 Are the vision and aims appropriate for the next 10 years? Why or why not?

Vision and aims :

Vision and aims are broadly appropriate for the next 10 years. However, investment in research should be included as an aim to guide implementation of evidence based interventions to improve health and wellbeing

Early intervention - should encompass early intervention at all stages of life not only to prevent disease but also to prevent complications of disease and to support living well with chronic conditions

Better information - and improved access to information

Targeting risk factors - this will become more of a focus over the next 10 years with technology identifying more genetic mutations with the potential for gene modifying interventions to mitigate risk.

Addressing the broader causes of health and well being - Good to see wellbeing included in the vision.

Goals of the Strategy

5 Are these the right goals to achieve the vision and aims of the Strategy. Why or why not? Is anything missing?

Goals :

Integrated and coordinated care vital in achieving the aims as outlined so good to see this as the first goal. However, this has been a goal in health, disability and aged care for many years and is yet to be achieved. Systemic changes will need to be made to achieve this goal.

The focus on prevention across health systems, environment, communities and at an individual level is welcomed. Goal 6 is important in adapting effort and focus over the 10 year period based on research.

Mobilising a Prevention System

6 Are these the right actions to mobilise a prevention system?

Enablers :

Need to be careful not to focus solely on prevention of disease when outlining actions to mobilise a prevention system. Actions should also encompass a health promotion approach to support people to live as well as possible with conditions that cannot, at present be prevented. This approach should include carer health and wellbeing.

Not for profit and disease specific organisations are integral to enabling and mobilising a prevention system. They play a key role in supporting people to access and understand information, linking people to health, social care and community, facilitating partnerships and responding to change.

Boosting Action in Focus Areas

7 Where should efforts be prioritised for the focus areas?

Boosting Actions:

Need to include screening for other conditions such as genetic conditions. Over the next 10 years this area of research is set to change the future of genetic conditions – for example motor neurone disease. A number of trials are underway to investigate potential therapies that target specific MND causing genetic mutations. In addition pre implantation genetic diagnosis for those families with a known genetic mutation could prevent MND in those families.

Continuing Strong Foundations

8 How do we enhance current prevention action?

Continuing Strong Foundations:

Increasing genetic screening, counselling and access to pre implantation genetic diagnosis

Additional feedback/comments

9 Any additional feedback/comments?

Additional feedback: