



## **Supporting Information**

### **Supplementary methods**

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.  
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Dobson AJ, Flicker L, Almeida OP, et al. Understanding differences in the estimated prevalence of dementia in Australia, 2021. *Med J Aust* 2023; doi: 10.5694/mja2.51838.

## Australian census, 2021

The 2021 census included a question on long term health conditions, defined as conditions that have lasted, or are expected to last, for six months or more.<sup>1,2</sup> The question — “Has the person been told by a doctor or nurse that they have any of these long-term health conditions” — was followed by a list of ten conditions, one of which was “dementia (including Alzheimer’s)”. The response rate for this question was 91.9%.<sup>3-5</sup>

## MedicineWise General Practice survey, 2018–19

The National Prescribing Service (NPS) MedicineWise conducts MedicineInsight, a national sample survey of general practice encounters.<sup>6</sup> Sample data are extracted from the practice electronic records. For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, the survey included 569 general practices and 3255 GPs nationally, or 7.1% of all Australian general practices and 8.6% of all Australian GPs. The survey covered 2.89 million patients seen at least once by GPs in the participating practices, or 13.2% of all patients seen by GPs at least once. The sample data were weighted to match the age, sex, and Primary Health Network distribution of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) patient population, defined as all patients with at least one MBS-billed non-referred GP attendance in the 2018–19 financial year. The sample data are published as rates per 100 patients by sex and age for 10-year age groups from 40-49 to 80-89 and 90 years and over.

## Other data on dementia prevalence in Australia

For the 2021 report the AIHW estimated prevalence rates for people aged 60 years or more based on the Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) 2015 report.<sup>7-9</sup> The ADI report analysed age-specific data, for women and men combined, from population-based studies in western Europe, North America, and Australasia using standard diagnostic criteria (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition; or International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, tenth revision).

## References

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