

Media Release

Ian Weatherhead, lead Admiral Nurse, Admiral Nursing DIRECT and family carers coping with dementia available for comment & interview.

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Dementia Carers Need More - Admiral Nursing DIRECT 'open more hours'

In response to research from the Alzheimer's Research Trust announced today, highlighting an increase in the number of people suffering from dementia across the UK, the massive costs to the UK economy and calling for a higher effort on research, the charity **for dementia** is pleased to announce an extension of its nationwide Admiral Nursing DIRECT service

"The huge extra cost identified in this new Report is largely down to the cost of informal care" says Ian Weatherhead, lead Admiral Nurse, Admiral Nursing DIRECT, "Family carers already know that the physical, emotional and psychological burden of care falls on them - this new research and report re-confirms that this burden is financial too."

"Increasing support to carers coping with dementia must be the national priority that the Government has promised in the National Dementia Strategy. Those of us working directly with families gallantly attempting to get to grips with the devastating effects of this disease have seen no evidence of change."

"Since the publication of the Government's National Dementia Strategy 12 months ago, nothing has changed", says Clare Roberts, who is helping her mother care for her father who has vascular dementia. "Apart, that is, from feeling even more disappointed and frustrated. We still cannot access the information and services we need to help us continue to cope and head off a crisis."

"Expectations have been raised hugely due to raised awareness and as a result calls to the Admiral Nursing DIRECT national helpline have doubled in the past twelve months," says Ian. "To respond to this need *for dementia* has doubled the hours that our national helpline Admiral Nursing DIRECT are open and manned by our specialist Admiral Nurses - and from this weekend (6 Feb) the lines will be open **extra hours on Saturdays 10.00am - 1.30pm.**

"I have lots of information about dementia, but reading about it is not the same as having someone to talk to" say Mrs Thompson, caring for her husband, John 77 who has Lewy Body dementia. "Being able to speak to an experienced Admiral Nurse on the phone has been a great help. I am 76 and not well myself so I cannot get out very much – so the Admiral Nursing DIRECT helpline is a life-line for both of us."

The first call from a carer to the Admiral Nursing DIRECT helpline costs £15 to service. Everyone can donate at <http://www.justgiving.com/time-for-a-cuppa> and support the current fundraising drive to help more families cope with dementia.

ENDS/ Notes follow

Notes

1. The mission of *for dementia* is to improve the quality of life of people affected by dementia by promoting and developing Admiral Nursing, providing high quality training and promoting best practice for professionals working with older people, carers and people with dementia, and supporting the carers network **Uniting Carers for dementia**. Professional and family carers and people with dementia can call the dedicated **Admiral Nursing DIRECT** phone line 0845 257 9406, or email questions to direct@fordementia.org.uk. For more charity information log on to www.fordementia.org.uk.