

### **Session III: The brain disease burden in adults**

**Moderator: Tony Cunningham**

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This is the first session in which we're going to talk about what goes wrong, given all the things that we heard go right this morning. In particular, we're going to focus on one of our greatest challenges — dementia, with 400,000 people in Australia diagnosed currently and expected to double by 2060, particularly with the wave of baby boomers coming through. We have Professor Glenda Halliday, who's going to lead off, then Professor Sharon Naismith. And then we're going to talk about a very topical field: long COVID, a very mysterious illness, with over 180 symptoms still being sorted out in terms of the physical versus the psychological.

Many groups in Australia are now working on the effect of the virus on the brain. It'll be very interesting to have Associate Professor Lucette Cysique talk about that, particularly as the Government has set up a \$50 million fund for research into

long COVID, and I'm apparently going to be involved in that. Being an infectious disease physician, I guess it's fairly obvious that we should have something where we know the exact start date on a subacute illness of the brain, a bit like HIV which Lucette has worked on before.

The first speaker is Professor Glenda Halliday, who's a legend in the field and is a Fellow of both the Academies of Science and Health and Medical Science. She's an NH&MRC Leadership Fellow and has been an NH&MRC Fellow since 1990. She is in the Faculty of Medicine and Health and School of Medical Sciences at the University of Sydney. Her particular interest is looking at the structure and function of the brain in illnesses that cause dementia, and also looking at how they impact on the diagnosis of such neurodegenerative diseases. Glenda has won many awards.