

## Alzheimer's WA welcomes two new Board Directors

Chair of Alzheimer's WA, Mr Warren Harding announces the appointment of two new Non-Executive Board directors, Mrs Majo Merriam and Mr Leo Tsaknis.

Mr Harding said both appointees have a wealth of experience in their respective domains that they bring to the skills based Alzheimer's WA Board and we are delighted to have access to their expertise.

"Mrs Merriam is a recently retired experienced social worker with extensive knowledge of the aged care field, dementia and related community services. With more than 20 years' experience in aged care, Mrs Merriam has a strong understanding of the experiences of people living with dementia and their carers." Mr Harding said.

"Mrs Merriam was an accredited assessor and delegate to the Aged Care Assessment Team at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital as well as an aged care specialist in social work. Mrs Merriam holds a B.A (Psych) and Master of Social Work from the University of Western Australia."

"Mr Tsaknis has over 35 years of legal experience in government, academia and private practice. He has provided legal and policy advice, risk assessment and dispute resolution services to the Federal Government, Ministers, statutory authorities, local governments, boards and senior management of private and publicly listed companies, Parliamentary bodies, and Committees of Inquiry in commercial and administrative law matters."

"Mr Tsaknis holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales, and a Master of Laws from the University of Sydney."

"Alzheimer's WA is committed to expanding its leadership and support role as WA's dementia experts. The addition to our Board of such accomplished and passionate Directors is welcome as we support the ever increasing number of people living with dementia across Western Australia as well as face the challenges of changes to aged care funding." Mr Harding said.

Media contacts: Moira McKechnie, (08) 6271 1022 / 0433 567 224  
[moira.mckechnie@alzheimerswa.org.au](mailto:moira.mckechnie@alzheimerswa.org.au)

### Notes to media:

Stories in the media about dementia may prompt concerns or cause distress for audiences and readers. When writing or talking about dementia, please encourage your audience/readers with the number for our Customer Support line on 1300 66 77 88, a free call, telephone information and support service.

## **What is appropriate language for talking about dementia and why we need it?**

The words used to talk about dementia can have a significant impact on how people with dementia are viewed and treated in our community. In particular please avoid the use of the word sufferer or suffering – the preferred language is a person/people living with dementia. Please read the [Dementia Language Guidelines](#) that have been developed by people living with dementia and carers.

## **About Alzheimer's WA**

At Alzheimer's WA we understand that everyone is different. Every person's experience with dementia is different. That's why our services are tailored to help clients through their dementia journey.

We understand dementia. We can help you and others around you to understand it too. We support clients to live their life the way they choose. At home, and in the community.

We see people as a person before your diagnosis. Our services embrace individuality and help to minimise the impacts of dementia. Our staff genuinely care about our clients. We consult with people living with dementia and world leaders in dementia care to understand better ways to support people living with dementia. We also work with other organisations to help them improve their dementia services.

We are **the** dementia experts.

For more information please call our Customer Support line on 1300 66 77 88 or visit [www.alzheimerswa.org.au](http://www.alzheimerswa.org.au)