# MEDIA STATEMENT



# LIFETIME AWARD FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Alzheimer's WA this week bestowed its highest award for extraordinary service, the Honorary Lifetime Member Award, to long serving Board member Jenny Rogers.

Board Chairman, Warren Harding congratulated Jenny on her 16 years and her many roles as former Deputy Chair, Company Secretary and head of the Investment Committee. During her time on the Board, Alzheimer's WA has expanded its personcentred household model of care from its original centre at Mary Chester House in Shenton Park to Ella's House in Mandurah, Hawthorn House in Albany and centres in York, Kalgoorlie and Northam. Jenny has been instrumental in helping shape that growth" he said "We are very indebted to her service and look forward to her continuing help as we create our Future Fund."

Earlier at the event, interim CEO, Ms Ella Dachs had introduced the guest speaker, Professor Ralph Martins, world leading WA researcher into the early diagnosis of dementia and progress on new blood tests and drug therapies. Ms Dachs said "While we are still some years away from a cure, the work we do at Alzheimer's WA in the areas of respite care, education, consulting, counselling and early intervention can make a significant difference in the lives of people living with dementia and the journey they take with carers, family and loved ones."

Alzheimer's WA, a NFP organisation, was founded in 1982 by Dr Dick Lefroy with a group of carers and has since developed a global reputation as the dementia care experts.

WA has some 46, 200 people living with dementia and with an ageing population, the prevalence of dementia is rising, as is younger onset dementia for those people under 65 years of age.

If you or a loved one are living with dementia and require assistance please call **1300 66 77 88** for more information about our Home Care Packages and services or visit our website on alzheimerswa.org.au. Please note that all calls will be treated as confidential and are obligation free.

Alzheimer's WA's AGM is on December 8 when Craig Maserai, Cottlesloe councilor and resident will receive his Lifetime Award.

**Photo attached:** Alzheimer's WA interim CEO, Ella Dachs, Board Chair, Warren Harding, and Lifetime Award recipient Mrs Jenny Rogers

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#### 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 <a href="Dementia Language Guidelines">Dementia Language Guidelines</a> 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 <a href="https://www.alzheimerswa.org.au">www.alzheimerswa.org.au</a>