

MEDIA STATEMENT

5 February, 2019

Alzheimer's WA welcomes two new Board members

Chair of Alzheimer's WA, Craig Masarei and CEO Rhonda Parker are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Board directors for 2019, Mr Warren Harding and Mr Matthew Budge.

Chair Mr Craig Masarei said both appointees bring with them a wealth of knowledge as well as a reliable voice for those with dementia and their carers.

"Mr Harding has been the Minister for Health's nominee on the current state-wide Sustainable Health Review, holds an Adjunct Professorship at Curtin Business School and brings over 30 years of international strategic management consulting and other NFP board experience to the role," Mr Masarei said.

"He was also former Vice President and Chair of the Nominations Committee for Tennis West from 2012-18."

Mr Harding recently experienced the passing of his mother who lived with dementia for 11 years and is very passionate about raising awareness; driving increased wellness for carers and people living with dementia; use of assistive technology; and better training in aged care.

Mr Masarei said the Board was also excited by the appointment of Matthew Budge, a Partner at PwC

"Mr Budge brings with him more 18 years' experience and is the trusted tax adviser to some of WA's largest companies and wealthiest families," he said.

"Like Warren, Matthew has also been touched by the dementia journey. His Mother has Younger Onset Dementia and Matt says a role with Alzheimer's WA gives him a tangible way to help others.

"His contribution was significant and outstanding. In 2018, he raised close to \$10,000 through our Chocolate Block Challenge. In September, together with PwC, Matt raised \$3,500 after hosting our inaugural World Alzheimer's Day Cocktail party, attended by Deputy Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA.

"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 face the change and challenge of responding to those living with dementia across WA."

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Statistics

- There are currently 41,149 people living with dementia in Western Australia.
- This figure is predicted to increase dramatically to over 84,000 people in less than twenty years and almost 150,000 people by 2056¹.
- Dementia is the leading cause of death of women in Australia, and the second leading cause of death of all Australians². There is currently no cure.

Sources

¹ NATSEM calculations using Australian Bureau of Statistics population projections

² Australian Bureau of Statistics

– Ends –

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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 to call 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

As the dementia experts Alzheimer's WA works with those living with dementia and the organisations that care and support them, to have the greatest beneficial impact on their dementia journey.

Our client services, advocacy work, training and consultancy programs are based on a philosophy of understanding the lived experience of dementia. We are guided by people living with dementia and our approach views dementia as a holistic experience for the person rather than just a biological illness. Call our Customer Support line on 1300 66 77 88 or visit www.alzheimerswa.org.au.