

Alzheimer's WA Hawthorn House recognised for best practice dementia design in global report

On World Alzheimer's Day, Alzheimer's WA Hawthorn House has been acknowledged by world leading dementia organisation Alzheimer's Disease International in their annual World Alzheimer Report 2020. The highly anticipated report features a global perspective of dementia design from 27 countries around the world.

Jason Burton, Head of Dementia Practice and Innovation at Alzheimer's WA said Hawthorn House was one of only two day centres in Australia to be featured in the report, both of them located in regional Western Australia.

"Alzheimer's WA recognises the vital importance of creating built environments that enable people living with dementia, and that support autonomy, ability and independence," Jason said.

"Hawthorn House was built to exacting evidence based dementia design principles. It reflects our person centred philosophy of care and support to provide the optimal physical environment for overcoming the disabilities of dementia," he said.

"Alzheimer's WA has been a leader in promoting enabling dementia design and our specialist dementia design website is globally recognised and accessed. It provides information, examples and advice on creating dementia enabling environments based on evidence and research based principles."

Hawthorn House is a world class day centre built exclusively to support people living with dementia in the Great Southern region of Western Australia. The house has been designed to deliver a warm, familiar homelike environment.

Based on Alzheimer's WA Enabling Household™ model, the purpose built house supports meaningful engagement, social connection and a sense of ownership by house members. People living with dementia can spend a few hours at the house, a few days or anything in between. This provides a break for the family carer as well as improving wellbeing for the person living with dementia.

Attendees are active members of the household with daily opportunities to take part in everyday activities such as collecting eggs, gathering wood for the fire or picking fruit for lunch.

Built in 2014, Hawthorn House has also won a Western Australia master builder award for best commercial building in the Great Southern.

There are more than 42,000 people living with dementia in Western Australia. This figure is predicted to increase dramatically to 108,000 by 2058¹. Dementia is the leading cause of death of women in Australia and the second leading cause of death of all Australians². There is no cure.

¹ Dementia Prevalence Data 2018-2058, commissioned research undertaken by NATSEM, University of Canberra

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 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