



# ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

## OUR VISION

A world where people living with dementia and their families are supported and valued on their dementia journey.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Dementia is a lived human experience rather than just a biological condition. We therefore embrace and support a holistic, person-centred approach that respects the individuality and the experience of those living with dementia.

## OUR PURPOSE

To improve the lived experience of those on the dementia journey through our advocacy, leadership, innovation, education, partnerships and holistic, person-centred care and support, and to support the pursuit of risk reduction, treatment and cure for dementia.

## OUR VALUES

Our passion to improve the experience of those living with dementia is supported by our values of:

- ◀ **PURPOSE** - We will be driven by purpose to improve the lives of people living with dementia through advocacy, education, partnerships and support a holistic person-centered approach.
- ◀ **ACCOUNTABILITY** - We will take ownership for what we do in the timelines required. We will learn from the past and hold ourselves and others to account.
- ◀ **INTEGRITY** - We will act with integrity at all times.
- ◀ **EMPATHY** - We value our relationships and will treat people with kindness and look after each other and create an environment that fosters dignity and privacy.
- ◀ **RESPECT** - We will treat people with respect, dignity and recognize and respect individuality.
- ◀ **QUALITY** - We will deliver quality services and strive for continued improvement and service excellence.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Through its rich history, Alzheimer's WA has always responded to challenges and in 2020/21 we transformed and have a very bright future ahead

WARREN HARDING | Adjunct Professor, Chairman

As Chairman I never cease to be delighted by seeing first-hand, the extraordinary work our staff do. This has been an incredibly challenging year and I am honoured to help guide an organization with such a rich history, to be ready to face the many funding reforms and new quality standards mandated in Aged Care. I also wish to record my appreciation for the tremendous work over 19 years of our former Chair Craig Masarei and we wish him well in his retirement. I was delighted that our Board recognized the contribution of both Craig and Jenny Rogers who served as Deputy Chair for 16 years, and we inducted them both as Lifetime Members late last year.

This year was a reform year for Alzheimer's WA necessitated by the need to be more efficient, more focused on our frontline services and purposeful in our endeavours, transparent in the acquittal of public monies and making a difference to the lives of the people living with dementia. Our new Strategic Plan 2020-23 provides a roadmap for our growth, improved

service quality, investment in new services, and in supporting our staff through training and development. The implementation of the Plan will rely heavily on our foundations of strong leadership, embracing our new values of Purpose, Empathy, Respect, Accountability, Integrity, and Quality as well as our constant focus on building culture and collaboration. These values will play an important part in our future.

### Strategic Review

The Board initiated a Board-led Strategic Task Force in July - October 2020 and we are pleased to record that the restructure has resulted in a stronger balance sheet, lower administration costs, better cost structure, and delivered surplus funds of \$1.39m in 2020/21 which will be deployed to meet our purpose and expand our frontline dementia care services. Members' equity increased \$1.75 m, with total assets rising \$3.56m to \$30.44m, with solid growth in our property portfolio as well as managed funds. The Board's establishment of a Future Fund will be an exciting approach to

safeguarding and growing our member assets to continue to meet the purpose of AWA. I appreciate the contribution of Craig Masarei, and guidance from Alan Churley, Coors Chambers and Price Waterhouse Coopers in this endeavour. Plans to modernize our Constitution, which was last updated in 2008, will also create more flexibility as our organization grows its NDIS, Home Care Packages and Respite services. I hope to have that considered favourably by our members soon.

### COVID 19

These wonderful performances are even more remarkable given the constant threat of COVID and the frequent shutdowns and restrictions in 2021. Our emergency response procedures of closing house and club services ensured all clients, members and staff were protected and we recorded no infections. All staff were issued with their emergency worker staff letters, and leadership is strongly encouraging all staff to be vaccinated ahead of the National Cabinet expectations of vaccination

for all aged care workers. Our ability to pivot quickly has been demonstrated throughout the year and on behalf of the Board, I thank the CEO, our staff, support workers, volunteers and our members, their families and carers for your combined efforts in staying safe.

I hear regularly from our members whom we serve, the students we train, people on the dementia journey, and visitors to our Memory Cafes, just how much they appreciate our respite Houses, our home care service, our training, advice and advocacy, the quality of our services but most of all, the heart we bring to everything we do. I deliberately spend time in our office talking to staff, visiting our Houses

and our Cafes; and while I hear the challenges, I see the commitment of the people who work for us in our central services to the kindness of our frontline support workers who are truly dedicated to making a difference.

**Royal Commission**

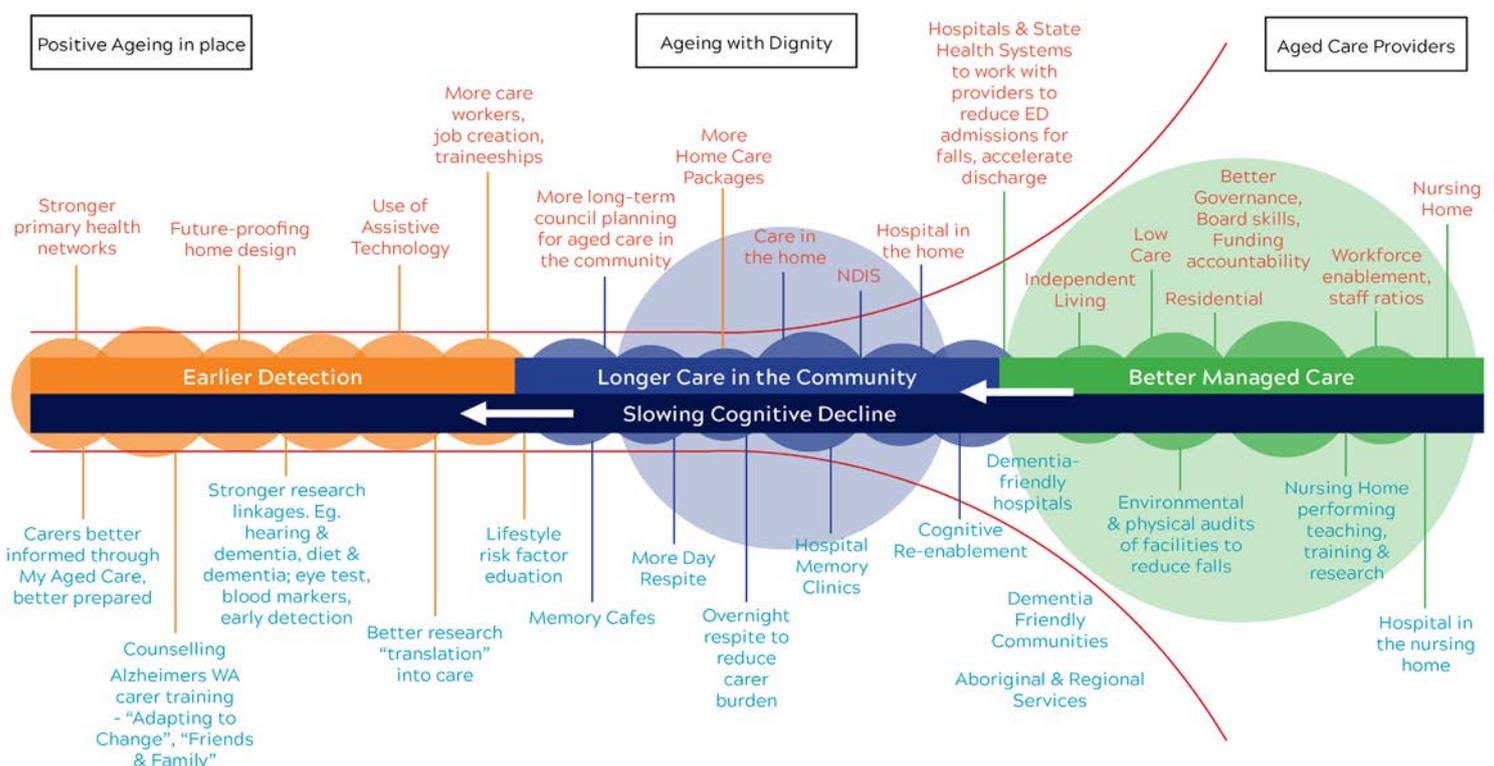
The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety which reported in 2020 created a narrative around new aged care standards, care in the community and underlined the importance of person-centred care, the rights of older people, and integrated long-term care. Alzheimer's WA is very well placed to play a role in this reform. Dementia was also called out as a critical challenge and

the importance of post-diagnosis support including access to education, counselling and support services as well as respite for carers. Younger Onset Dementia was addressed with targets of no person aged under 45 will live in residential aged care home by 2022 and no one under 65 will live in residential aged care by 2025.

This year, we called out the importance of our members and all people living with dementia to age with dignity and in place. We also reinforced our relationships with our research partners, all WA universities and in particular we valued Professor Ralph Martins' work into early detection. Progress in biomarkers and affordable blood tests



**Our Dementia Care Service Journey**



promises early diagnosis and earlier interventions into lifestyle factors. We are pleased to see more investment into research both internationally and in Australia for this universal disease. The focus on early detection which supports early intervention by slowing cognitive decline is an important pathway for our Adjusting to Change workshops, Acute Dementia Change Champions program, Memory Clinics and Memory Cafes.

The State Skills Summit called out the importance of the aged care sector to economic recovery and the need to ensure we can attract care workers, scientists, researchers, data analysts, AI and software engineers. Alzheimer's WA has an important role in capacity building through our CERT III and IV courses. Our industry is very much the new frontier of science, innovation and research. Assistive technology to support independent living at home has seen many advances in movement and sensor monitoring, wearables, as well as in robotics and domotics.

### **Dementia Friendly Communities**

This year we were delighted to work with local MPs who helped open new Cafes in Baldivis, Floreat, and South Perth with plans for Bunbury and Whitfords. Our marketing team did a wonderful job on our digital

platforms to promote the Cafes and engaged an intergenerational group of new supporters of Alzheimer's WA. Our vision of a State which is dementia-friendly and each town, shopping centre and every local government area is a dementia-friendly community, where all people living with dementia can age with dignity and live where their children work and grandchildren go to school.

I also wish to record the strong relationship with the Federal Government through Minister Greg Hunt MP and Richard Colbeck MP and the CHSP and NDIS funding; as well as the WA Government support through WA Health, Department of Communities, Minister for Health Hon Roger Cook MLA, Minister for Volunteering Hon Reece Whitby MLA and Minister for Seniors and Ageing, Hon Don Punch, MLA. Their visits to our Houses and official opening of our new Central Services in Subiaco inspired staff and attracted valuable media coverage. Federal Members of Parliament Celia Hammond, MP and Patrick Gorman, MP both showed great support for our work with the establishment of a Memory Café in Floreat as well as their strong voices in Federal Parliament highlighting our great work and the importance of national funding being

directed to a state based provider of dementia services.

### **Talent**

It is also so pleasing to see we are recruiting great talent into Alzheimer's WA, expanding new skills in clinical governance, NDIS, and Occupational Therapy. Our Home Care packages grew significantly as did our NDIS services and we are preparing for our first major NDIS audit. We are a very purpose-led organisation and I encourage every one of our staff to continue to make a difference. This may be the most rewarding career our staff, support workers and volunteers may ever have. We of course also acknowledge the challenges and I thank them all for their tireless work.

As this financial year comes to a close, I truly appreciate the wonderful support of my Deputy Chair and Honorary Medical Officer, Dr Sean Maher and Board members Matt Budge, Arnold Stroobach, Majo Merriam, Leo Tsaknis and Ella Dachs. This skills-based Board has provided tremendous unity, vision and support and ensured appropriate oversight to operations and exemplary governance. We also acknowledge the passionate leadership of our CEO, Ella Dachs who showed strong leadership during the Strategic Task Force and the Board was pleased to appoint her as interim CEO in November 2020 and

confirmed her contract in June 2021.

I am very strong on Culture and Values-based leadership which encourages all of us to make decisions with our Values in mind; where Values are a governing foundation of our organization, and are the guiding light on how performance is evaluated for our teams and individuals alike. I encourage everyone to start the new year of 2021/22 with pride for what we achieved and what we do. I hope to see that pride on display at the AGM, our Dementia Symposium in October, and particularly the Walks to Remember in November with this year's theme of "Our hearts will remember, what our mind may forget"

I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of our Patron, His Excellency Kim Beazley, AC, the WA Governor has been generous with his time; I have accepted his invitation to participate in his quarterly roundtables on Positive Ageing, and the use of WA Government House for our new look Walk to Remember is very much appreciated.

In closing, I am honoured to serve Alzheimer's WA and proud to present the 2020/21 Annual Report to our Members.

**Warren Harding**  
Adjunct Professor  
Chairman



Top L to R: Clients Andrea Ball, Jessica Flower, Elspeth Morrow and Zlata Jazabek  
Bottom L to R: Support Worker, Christine Clare and Client, Elinor Kaufman



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THIS YEAR, WE CALLED OUT THE  
IMPORTANCE OF OUR MEMBERS AND ALL  
PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA TO AGE  
WITH DIGNITY AND IN PLACE



# CEO'S REPORT

## A Year in Review

ELLA DACHS | *Chief Executive Officer*

This year has been one of significant change at AWA. The impact of COVID-19 and the destructive bushfires across the nation, made for a challenging start to 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost loved ones during this time.

We are mindful of the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and in particular the new strains of the virus. We are not complacent and are working diligently to enhance our protocols using the learnings from previous outbreaks. The introduction of a new dedicated COVID-19 emergency response team is an example of the additional measures we have implemented to safeguard our members and colleagues. We have initiated the implementation of best practice protocols, provided additional training for our workforce, and have provided staff with the best technology and communication tools.

The changes implemented this year have also brought many opportunities and learnings which will help promote improvements

in the dynamic aged care landscape.

Amidst the changes, we are pleased to have relocated our Central Services office from Osborne Park to a more central location in Subiaco. This relocation will generate greater visibility and awareness of the organisation and better serve our members. We were delighted to welcome the Minister for Health, the Hon Roger Cook, MLA to open our new offices.

Our priority (as always) is the safety of our clients, staff and members, as we continue to provide critically important services to the most vulnerable members of our community. I have appreciated the resilience and resourcefulness of our inspirational Executive team, managers, team leaders, team members, our staff members, carers, students, volunteers and of course our partners, without whom our efforts would not be as impactful as it has been this year. I am proud to be part of such a disciplined and empathetic team and grateful and proud of what

we are doing to support our clients and our community.

This financial year, we implemented a new strategic plan (2020-2023) which reflects the changing aged care landscape, while staying true to deliver on our purpose of improving the lives of those living with dementia.

Our three-year strategic plan communicates more focussed efforts on increasing financial sustainability, developing more respite care facilities, and continuing our person-centred model of care throughout the dementia journey.

We have incorporated new organisational values to best nurture our positive culture. We have invested in and developed our staff in order to expand our individual and organisational capabilities and better serve our members.

I believe that following the Royal Commission findings this year, we will see a change in the perception of elderly Australians resulting in them

becoming more revered, placing greater focus and appreciation on those living with dementia.

The Royal Commission into aged care, released 148 compelling recommendations, which provided a roadmap for all aged care service providers. As an organisation, we will be continuing to embed our focussed efforts on the following: -

- » Person centred philosophy of Care Safeguarding our clients;
- » Advancing our quality and risk mechanisms;
- » Improving our workforce and culture;
- » Developing digital and technological improvements.

The reforms present significant opportunities and challenges. As a proudly West Australian dementia specialist organisation, we have examined how to best take advantage of our position in the aged care and disability sectors to become even stronger advocates, better educators and best support and improve the lives of those living with dementia.

This has been a year in which Alzheimer's WA had to be resilient and embrace changes. Change as we are aware, is the only constant in our lives, and we have embraced the opportunity to do things differently and to improve them.

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## OUR STRENGTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND THEIR PASSION FOR THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

Thank you to our incredible staff members and volunteers for your outstanding performance this year. Your resilience, empathy and delivering on purpose is unsurpassed. I am so proud of what we have achieved as a team this year and for your commitment to the future of the Alzheimer's WA. We started this journey from humble beginnings nearly 40 years ago and look forward to continuing this important journey with you.

Whether working in the office or in the field, the Alzheimer's WA team is dedicated to our purpose and living our values of purpose, accountability, integrity, respect, and quality.

We are grateful to our large community of members. More than 4,000 people support us in our work. At a time when there are have been so many changes and challenges, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to our members and clients living with dementia. We are honoured to support you and we will continue to provide a voice to ensure that you have adequate support throughout your dementia journey.

Our achievements have inspired us to continually improve, invest in our people and embrace the challenges to drive and promote the change that is needed in our industry. Our strength has always been our wonderful people and their passion for the community we serve - from our frontline support staff to the leadership team to our Board members, we are and will continue to be, an organisation united by our shared vision and purpose.

Finally, and most importantly, my thanks to our exceptional Board members who have contributed a tremendous amount of their valuable time. On behalf of AWA, I would like to sincerely thank the Board of Directors, particularly Chairman Warren Harding, as well as Dr. Sean Maher, Matthew Budge, Arnold Stroobach and Majo Merriam, for their support in our transformation journey as we consolidate our position as dementia care experts.

We are on a great trajectory - together we will ensure that no one faces dementia alone.

**Ella Dachs**  
Chief Executive Officer



# MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Highlights from Alzheimer's Research in 2021

DR SEAN MAHER | *Honorary Medical Director*

The most stunning development in Alzheimer's Disease (AD) research and treatment this year was the decision by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June to approve aducanumab (marketed as "Aduhelm"), an antibody directed against beta amyloid (A $\beta$ ) for clinical use, which has generated enormous controversy. It has been heralded as a major advance, a disease modifying therapy that removes A $\beta$  from the brain graphically demonstrated on brain PET scans, and the first new therapy in decades which gives the pharmaceutical industry confidence to continue to pursue other therapies.

However, the two Phase III trials' data submitted to justify approval (EMERGE was positive, ENGAGE was negative) have been widely questioned as to whether there was any meaningful clinical benefit. Those treated deteriorated 23% more slowly than those that weren't. The FDA's own advisory committee

was not convinced and recommended against approval, as did The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, the American Academy of Neurology and the American Geriatrics Society who felt the risk of side effects likely outweighed the reputed functional benefit. Advocacy groups lobbied strongly that even modest slowing of decline would be meaningful to people with dementia (PWD) and their families.

The FDA finally approved it using its "accelerated approval program", "where there is an expectation of clinical benefit" based on the "substantial evidence that the drug reduces A $\beta$  plaque". The makers of aducanumab now have nine years to present further evidence to demonstrate real clinical benefit beyond change on a PET scan - a Phase 4 trial. This often occurs with oncology drug approvals.

Members of the FDA advisory committee resigned in protest and the

FDA is facing a number of enquiries into its approval processes, including a Congressional enquiry.

The annual cost of therapy starts at US\$56 000 but would need added costs of monitoring including MRI and clinic reviews. At this point, health insurers are not committing to pay and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services are beginning a process to decide whether there will be a national coverage policy for Medicare patients.

This process is likely to cover other monoclonal antibodies, not just aducanumab. Biogen has applied to the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration to market aducanumab here.

Despite this, interest remains high from PWD and clinicians. The lack of clarity around usage and monitoring was addressed at the July 26 -30 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) held virtually and

in Denver, Colorado where a group of prominent Alzheimer's researchers released "appropriate usage recommendations" (AUR). These cover inclusion and exclusion criteria, investigations, dosing, monitoring (including multiple MRI scans) and managing side effects.

The duration of treatment is unclear and likely determined by tolerability and response.

Many have noted that the first drug in a new class is not necessarily the best one and that other anti-amyloid antibodies in development may be better. Results from trials with other antibodies were presented at AAIC. A Phase II trial (TRAILBLAZER) using donanemab in people with early AD showed not only encouragingly rapid reduction in A $\beta$  plaques over 6 months, but also reduction in tau protein tangles on PET scans, as well as blood tests showing similar rapid decline in p-tau217, which correlates highly with PET scan evidence of tau protein. Cognition didn't improve, but there was a 32% slowing of decline. Another Phase II study using lecanemab has also shown significant reduction in A $\beta$  and two Phase III trials are underway, including in cognitively normal people with evidence of amyloid.

Amyloid is considered to lead to the formation of phosphorylated tau protein,

tangles, neuronal loss and cognitive impairment. Neuroinflammation is thought to drive this process and increasing evidence supports the involvement of the native immune cells in the brain, the microglia, as major players. A Canadian study of biomarkers and dementia (TRIAD) undertook MRI, CSF biomarkers as well as PET amyloid, tau and a novel marker of activated microglia (PBR28) in healthy young and older people, as well as some with mild cognitive impairment and dementia. PBR28 activity mirrored the distribution of amyloid and predicted the later spread of tau tangles. CSF markers of neuroinflammation also correlated with PBR28 activity. Having all three PET markers was predictive of cognitive decline. This is further evidence of the "amyloid cascade" and the rationale for attempts at early amyloid removal.

The source of A $\beta$  has been presumed to be from the brain. However, fascinating work from Curtin University researchers suggest that much of it may be derived from the liver and delivered to the brain via lipoproteins increased by a diet high in saturated fat. They used transgenic mice who make more amyloid precursor protein but only in the liver and not brain. These mice displayed damage to brain capillaries and the blood brain barrier, allowing leakage of A $\beta$

and lipoprotein into the brain. They displayed neuroinflammation and neuronal loss, A $\beta$  accumulation on PET scan, atrophy on MRI and cognitive impairment on behavioural tests - all consistent with AD pathology. This highlights the importance of dietary modification. A trial now underway to use probucol, (a drug previously used to treat cholesterol which seems to protect brain capillaries and the blood brain barrier) in people with mild AD (PIA study).

The role of microglia is an expanding area of research. Genetic studies highlight many genes affecting microglia that contribute to predicting risk of AD. Underactivity may lead to ineffective clearance of A $\beta$  and poorly functioning or overwhelmed microglia might lead to spreading of cytokines or partly digested tau causing seeding elsewhere. Microglia are responsible for pruning of synapses, digesting and "sculpting" of amyloid plaques and dissolving the matrix in which synapses reside which allows reforming of new synapses ("neuroplasticity"). More like gardeners than just garbage disposals, their activity is highly complex and varies according to AD stage. Various therapies are being assessed which might enhance or suppress activity, including "antisense oligonucleotides" which

suppress gene expression, psychotropic agents like ketamine and even flickering light at 60Hz!

Antisense oligonucleotides have been successful in treating muscular dystrophy and are being trialled in other neurodegenerative diseases. A Phase I trial to reduce tau and phosphorylated tau in people with mild AD showed a 50% reduction in CSF levels after 6 months; Phase II trials will follow.

Trials using antibodies against tau protein have largely been negative so far, but a Phase II trial using semorinemab in people with mild to moderate AD (LAURIET) showed an encouraging 43% slower decline in those treated. It's unclear why other trials have been negative but may be due to the different forms of phosphorylated tau present at different stages of AD. A raft of newer antibodies directed at the middle (microtubule binding region) of tau which drives aggregation, rather than ends, are in development.

Efforts to make a vaccine against A $\beta$  have not been abandoned and if successful, would clearly be cheaper and less invasive than intravenous antibody therapies. Two were presented at AICC but are still in preclinical stages. One is directed at the same A $\beta$  found within plaques (pE3- A $\beta$ ) which

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## THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE BLOOD TESTS ALONE WILL REPLACE BRAIN IMAGING

the monoclonal antibody therapy, donanemab, targets and reduced the amount of A $\beta$  in mice by half. The researchers have combined pE3- A $\beta$  with other antigens like influenza and tetanus to hopefully produce a better immune response in older people. A second vaccine utilises both A $\beta$  and tau microtubule binding region proteins and has produced strong antibody responses to both as well as showing significant anti tau and A $\beta$  activity in in vitro cell cultures, including activating microglia to take up A $\beta$  fibrils.

There was excitement last year that new blood tests for p-tau-217 would be accurate enough to act as a diagnostic test for AD. However, further work has dampened enthusiasm once it has been analysed in more diverse “real world” groups; there is a lot more work to be done to enable reliable “cut-off” levels and certainly to reliably detect people in the pre-symptomatic phase, when therapies are likely to have the most

benefit. Hence, designing risk prediction algorithms that combine blood tests with other markers of risk is underway and promising. Different groups are trialling different models; a group from Lund University combined plasma p-tau-217, plasma NfL, APOE genotype, cortical thickness on MRI, delayed memory recall and Trail Making Test B cognitive tests which gave risk prediction area under the curve (AUC) of conversions to AD within two, four and six years of 0.91, 0.92 and 0.94. Leaving out MRI and NfL still gave an AUC of 0.91 at four years. There is still much work to be done before blood tests alone will replace brain imaging.

Lifestyle modification to reduce risk of cognitive decline is still highly encouraged on the basis of earlier trials such as the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability (FINGER). Similar trials are underway worldwide, including the AU - ARROW study which is recruiting in Perth. No new results are available but researchers have reanalysed previous longitudinal studies where participants were followed for years with accompanying lifestyle and cognitive assessments and blood tests, using newer tests for biomarkers. The Chicago Health and Aging Project followed 10 800 cognitively normal people for 18 years.

Researchers were able to look at 1159 people with average age of 77 who had data about exercise levels, blood tests and cognitive assessments. They divided them according to high and low tau levels, as well as low (no exercise), medium (<150 mins) or high levels (>150 mins) of exercise per week. People with low tau or high or moderate exercise had better cognition and declined at a similar rate over 10 years. Those with high tau who had high or moderate exercise declined 41-58% more slowly compared to those with no exercise. This supports the evidence that lifestyle modification reduces risk, even those with higher risk.

COVID-19 infection continues unabated in most parts of the world. It's not clear what this may mean for those who suffer neurological symptoms in terms of risk of dementia. Researchers from the US, Europe and China have reported follow-up for people with neurological symptoms during their infection at 6 months, sometimes with conflicting results. About half still experienced "foginess", or impairment on cognitive testing (usually via telephone). Levels of tau, p-tau and A $\beta$  on blood tests were all more in keeping with emerging AD pathology for those who had neurological symptoms at the time of infection.

Markers of acute neuronal injury like NfI were elevated for a few weeks following acute infection but tended to fall back to normal.

More severe initial disease tended to be associated with more disturbances in neuronal injury markers, cognitive impairment and MRI appearances of microvascular injury. Cognitive impairment lasting weeks to months following delirium due to other illnesses is well recognised and does result in increased risk of AD. Yet another good reason to make sure everyone we know has had a COVID vaccination!

Dementia is the second commonest cause of death in Australia and is becoming increasingly common in low and middle income countries. Making progress in treatment and prevention relies on altruistic people taking part in clinical trials, including healthy cognitively unimpaired as well as PWD.

We are fortunate to have access to participation in both Australian and International trials in Perth via a number of sites including the Australian Alzheimer's Research Foundation. The Australian Dementia Network helps link clinicians, researchers and consumers to improve the diagnosis and treatment of dementia as well as enabling screening of people to participate in trials.

The Step up for Dementia initiative enables people to directly volunteer for trials. At an international level, a new initiative called the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative is seeking to integrate existing research cohorts and trials, to accelerate better detection and treatment of dementia at a global level. It will partner with governments, health care networks, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry, with funding to come from all partners and other bodies such as the Gates Foundation. A key issue is to incorporate the diversity of non-Europeans, as most dementia research has been conducted in those of European descent.

Longitudinal studies are planned to follow cognition using digital smartphone apps as well as testing blood for AD biomarkers. Prevention of AD with lifestyle measures remains just as important as ever. Improvement in the understanding of risk factors combined with screening and early detection in diverse populations still needs to be matched by therapies which are effective in the early stages of AD.

Encouragingly, there are still many promising therapies in development.

**Dr Sean Maher**  
Deputy Chair  
Honorary Medical Director

# THE BOARD & DIRECTORS

## OUR PATRON



The Honourable  
Kim Beazley AC,  
Governor of  
Western Australia

## BOARD



Mr. Warren Harding  
**Chairman**

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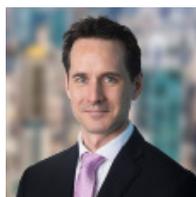
Dr. Sean Maher  
**Deputy Chair and Honorary Medical  
Director**

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Mr. Arnold Stroobach  
**Director**

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Mr. Matthew Budge  
**Finance Director**

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Mrs. Majo Merriam  
**Director**

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Mrs. Ella Dachs  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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# HISTORY OF ALZHEIMER'S WA

Alzheimer's WA was established in 1982 by carers of people living with dementia who saw the increasing need for a dementia-specific support organisation. In particular, a growing need from families for dementia specialist information and home support services.



Above L to R: Support Worker, Bev Simpson and Client, Alan Thompson

# ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S WA

## OUR PASSION TO IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCE OF THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IS SUPPORTED BY OUR VALUES OF:



**PURPOSE** - We will be driven by purpose to improve the lives of people living with dementia through advocacy, education, partnerships and support a holistic, person-centered approach.



**ACCOUNTABILITY** - We will take ownership for what we do in the timelines required. We will learn from the past and hold ourselves and others to account.



**INTEGRITY** - We will act with integrity at all times.



**EMPATHY** - We value our relationships and will treat people with kindness and look after each other and create an environment that fosters dignity and privacy.



**RESPECT** - We will treat people with respect, dignity and recognize and respect individuality.



**QUALITY** - We will deliver quality services and strive for continued improvement and service excellence.

# MEETING OUR PURPOSE



## JUNE 2021

- Ongoing certificates and skillset training programs, and delivery of Positive Care Dementia training to Bunbury Hospital.
- We recommenced our kindergarten visits to Yakamia Primary School. On the last Wednesday of the month, the group and children enjoyed many activities prepared by the wonderful teachers. The group is engaged throughout the afternoon with painting, reading stories, dress-ups and afternoon tea.
- Following an interim appointment in October 2020, Ella Dachs was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Alzheimer's WA.
- Winter dinner club at Mary Chester House was attended by guests who enjoyed a Curry and Quiz night. Our thanks to The Marsh Group for preparing a delicious meal for our families and friends to enjoy.

- Alzheimer's WA Tax Appeal is launched.

## MAY 2021

- Ministerial visit and plaque unveiling to celebrate Volunteers Week held at Mary Chester House attended by State Minister, Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, volunteers, families and staff. Our plaque is at the entrance of Mary Chester House.
- A BBQ was held at Mary Chester House for a staff get together to celebrate reaching 100 HCP packages.
- Continued medical student and Bunbury Hospital staff training, delivered ongoing certificate and skillset training programs, and provided Intellectual Disability and Dementia workshops to both Uniting WA and Rocky Bay.

## APRIL 2021

- After a lengthy delay due to COVID, we were finally able to recommence our fortnightly Hawthorn House Playgroup every

Thursday morning.

- Delivered the Acute Champion training to WA Health Department staff, provided dementia and continence training to Hollywood Private Hospital, and dementia inclusive communities training for the Town of Cambridge.

## MARCH 2021

- Launched a Memory Café at The Globe Café in South Perth, providing a safe and friendly environment for those who are experiencing cognitive decline, their carers and family.
- Delivered Acute Champion training to WA Health Department staff at Bunbury Hospital, delivered ongoing certificate and skillset training programs including to Silver Chain, and established the Restrictive Practice workshop for the CHSP Dementia Change Champions Program.

- The family and friends dance at Mary Chester House was held with guests enjoying a fabulous meal prepared by The Marsh Group with entertainment by “the Block Chain Blues.”
- The Alzheimer’s WA Subiaco corporate office was opened by Deputy Premier, Hon. Roger Cook MLA.

## FEBRUARY 2021

- Delivered the Acute Dementia Champion training to WA Health Department staff at Fremantle Hospital, provided dementia training to the Older Adult Mental Health Service Acute Champion Cohort (Fremantle), commenced and completed various Certificate III, IV, and Skillset programs, and delivered regional dementia training in Meaningful Engagement, Reminiscence, and Life Stories for the Silver Chain Group.
- Royal Commission in Aged Care Quality and Safety releases 148 recommendations with contribution from Alzheimer’s WA.

## JANUARY 2021

- Released a comprehensive COVID response including Emergency Services Plan, injection control, PPE training, along with communication of all protocols to staff.

- Hawthorn House commenced providing Home Care Packages to the Lower Great Southern.
- Corporate Services relocates to Subiaco Square following the termination of lease at Osborne Park.

## DECEMBER 2020

- Carers and friends family lunches were held over the last week of December. Our guests enjoyed a roast dinner with all the trimmings followed by plum pudding. One family made the day extra-special by bringing their pet horse dressed up with Santa ears.
- The Alzheimer’s WA choir held Carols by daylight in the garden at Mary Chester House. People enjoyed a sing-a long followed by afternoon tea.
- Ella’s House celebrated their client and carer Christmas party at Halls Head Bowling Club. With over 100 people in attendance, the event featured a three-course traditional Christmas meal, music, door prizes and raffles.
- Graduation Day for Certificate III and Skill Set students.
- COVID Management Plan rolled out.

## NOVEMBER 2020

- Industry colleagues, RAS team and ACATs were invited to Mary Chester

House for Open Day, to mingle with our day club and enjoy our newly renovated garden over high tea.

- Fremantle Sailing Club held a boat cruise for our members and their families. The club provided a fabulous lunch and trip up the river for our members. Our carers thoroughly enjoyed the day out with their loved ones. This is an annual event in honour of past member Ken Jack.
- “Lunch in our Garden” - A garden party was enjoyed at Mary Chester House to celebrate Seniors Week. Family, friends and our playgroup members were invited to enjoy our new outdoor space. Young and old enjoyed the day. With face painting, bubble blowing and garden fairies, we had a full house.
- Our official Opening to showcase the renovations at Mary Chester House was celebrated with a dinner dance and attended by all those who supported Mary Chester with donations or time to make our house a home. Special thanks was given to the ‘The Block Chain Blues’ band who entertained us.
- For Seniors Week, Ella’s House held an event called “Join in the fun and have a go!”. It was a fun-filled day to learn about the importance of exercise, socialisation, physical and mental activities. Games such as a bean bag throw,

Zumba Gold, quoits, darts and pool were on hand. Catering was provided with giveaways of books and puzzles.

### OCTOBER 2020

- Delivered the Acute Champion training to WA Health Department staff and Harvey Hospital staff. We also provided a separate program on dementia in indigenous communities at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.
- Commenced and completed various Certificate III, IV, and Skillset programs, supported the Hon Matt Swinbourn MLC East Metro Region in providing a workshop on dementia for constituents, and continued to support the UWA School of Medicine delivering multiple training sessions.

### SEPTEMBER 2020

- Mary Chester House held a morning tea for our Volunteers themed “Thank You for your support.” This High Tea was lovingly prepared by the Mary Chester House members and enjoyed by guests.
- Ella’s House hosted it’s 5th birthday with a garden party, with amazing food and great support from staff and volunteers. A wonderful birthday celebration!

### AUGUST 2020

- Mario from the Aus Care Group joined the team

at Mary Chester House for a morning of Macaron making and a fruit-cutting demonstration. Our ladies joined in the fun helping Mario with the cooking followed by a Macaron or two for afternoon tea.

- The Scotch College Year 10 Bagpipe Band performed for our members at Mary Chester House. This concert was greatly enjoyed and many of us had a tear or two as it brought back special memories.
- Mary Chester House commenced renovations and a garden makeover to give residents greater space to relax and enjoy each other’s company. Renovations included an outdoor area than can be enclosed during winter, as well as space for the chickens to roam.
- St. Ives Greenfields hosted a morning tea and made a donation to Ella’s House and Alzheimers WA. Their members held a “St. Ives has got talent” show and showcased an array of art, sculptures and photography to raise funds.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with the Salvation Army in Subiaco securing a venue for the Friends in Harmony Choir, supported the UWA School of Medicine delivering multiple training sessions to 140 participants, and both commenced,

and completed various Certificate IV Leadership and Innovation in Dementia Services and Dementia Skillset programs.

### JULY 2020

- Senior Management commenced their “roadshow” by meeting with all South Support Workers over two sessions, giving them updates on the Organisation’s mission and values.
- Significant upgrades to Ella’s House. New wooden floors, carpets, kitchen appliances, an air conditioner for the Men’s Shed, as well as a shade sail which allows members to enjoy the outdoors and play mini golf more comfortably.
- Murdoch University Nursing students began volunteering at Ella’s House weekly throughout the year, allowing extra 1:1 connection for residents and support for our members and team.
- Initiated partnerships with People Who Care and Narrogin Homecare, provided training to Royal Perth Hospital on supporting people living with dementia in hospital, and established Enterprise Training Program and Priority Industry Training courses in both metropolitan and regional areas.



Above L to R: Clients Steve Wood, Nick Kingsbridge and Mike Bussell

# SNAPSHOT OF 2021



**44,300**

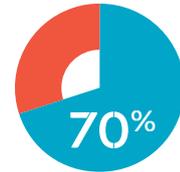
Western Australians living with Dementia



In **2021**, there are an estimated

**472,000**

Australians living with Dementia



70%  
People living with Dementia in the community



Dementia is the leading cause of death for women



Dementia is the second leading cause of death for men



**59,489**

Hours of Day Centre Services per annum



**252,000**

Hours of Social Support



Above: Client, George Platt



People living with younger onset dementia served under NDIS and Home Care Packages



Dementia Advocates



Dementia Change Champions



**4,784**

Hours of support through a monthly Carer Support Group



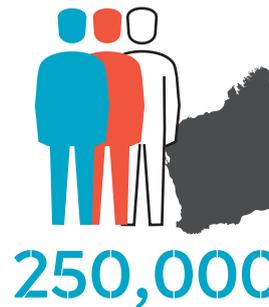
Students in accredited and non-accredited training



Attendees at community sessions



Hours of individual support provided by Home Care Packages



Western Australian carers and family members supporting people living with dementia



# FILLING UP WITH MEMORIES

**Memory Cafes are so much more than the sum of their parts.**

Memory Cafés provide opportunities for both a person living with dementia and their carer to meet socially with others on a similar journey.

The number of Memory Cafes, which are community initiatives, have continued to grow, with the establishment of more Memory Café locations planned in the near future.

Loris has been volunteering at the Memory Café at The Globe Coffee House in South Perth since May this year. “The Memory Café in South Perth is about inviting

people who are living with dementia and their carers to come along for a social morning where they can order tea, coffee and cakes and we make sure that they have a fun

time,” she explains. “There is conversation that takes place and there are small activities on the table, but there is no pressure when they come in - they can chat or have some quiet time.” Loris says for some clients, the weekly Memory Café client is becoming a highlight of their week.



Margaret, who is a Sister of St Joseph's Subiaco, has been bringing three Sisters of St Joseph's who are living with dementia (June, Denise and Leonie) to the Memory Café for a few months. "It gets them out of their little world here and gets them into a real world, even just being in a café, seeing different people," Margaret says. "These Sisters have worked with people out in their ministries for years and years, so when they see people now they respond. "I think going to the Memory Café is very worthwhile.

Doing an activity can give a sense of finishing something, achieving something, and it is nice having a cup of tea or coffee."

Loris adds the Memory Café catch ups are also very beneficial for the carers. "In a lot of cases the carers are partners so for them it is an opportunity to come down and sit and have a quiet time with others that are in the same situation as them," she says. "It is a case of not feeling alone. You are with others that are travelling the same journey and it gives an opportunity to share some experiences and for their family member or whoever it might be living with dementia to interact with others."

From the view of a volunteer, Loris adds she feels she gets as much out of the interactions as the clients and carers.



Above L to R: Claudia and Roland Devaux

"I have found it so rewarding," she says. "Monday morning is the highlight of my week and I feel like even though I have retired and I have grandchildren and I like painting and sketching, going down and meeting with these precious people has given my life purpose. I love to see the smiles on their faces and sharing a hug."

### Globe Coffee House, South Perth

When Forum Patel, owner of the Globe Coffee House in South Perth, was approached by Alzheimer's WA about holding a Memory Café at her coffee house; she was keen to be involved.

"I have been in South Perth for five years and I like to help the community," she says. "It was a great opportunity for my business

as well, because people come in for the Memory Café on the Monday but then also come (on other days) with their friends or family.

"I put the Memory Café advertisement outside the café and people see the ad and come inside. It is a good advertisement in the community as well because the people in South Perth love good and caring customer service."

Forum says the volunteers from Alzheimer's WA are all very helpful. She adds she is planning on opening another branch of the café, and if that goes ahead, she would like an AWA Memory Café to be held at the new location as well.

# LEAVING A LEGACY



## REV FRANK DRYSDALE

### INVENTOR OF NUMERO - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE!

Above L to R: Clients Bert Simpson and Tom Kitchen

#### PAST:

The creator of Numero®, Rev. Frank Drysdale (1932-2011), was forced into early retirement in 1989 when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. One of Frank's own remedies to this situation was to keep himself mentally fit by playing mind games, many of which involved cards. He enlisted the help of his wife, Joan, and his young grandchildren to help him pass the time playing different card games. Numero® was developed as a result of finding new things to play with these grandchildren, and it very quickly developed into the game we now call Numero®. Following support from

Dr Paul Swan at ECU Bunbury, Numero® was then demonstrated publicly for the first time in 1993 when presented at the Mathematics Association of Western Australia annual conference. It proved so popular that production commenced in a small way. When it was clear that Numero® was truly going to be a success, Frank and Joan gifted the copyright ownership of the game to Alzheimer's WA. This has ensured that royalties from the sale of all Numero® products are channelled to Alzheimer's WA, providing money to help fund various dementia-related programs throughout WA and the rest of the world.

For many years, Numero® was managed as a backyard operation, but it became too big and publishing rights were given to a WA educational publisher to ensure its continuing place in WA schools.

#### PRESENT:

A new era began in 2018 with publishing and distribution rights returning to the family fold, with Frank's daughter, Julie, regaining control of Numero's® future, through Independent Education and Training Pty Ltd (IETPL). This company was formed to look after Numero® going forward and will cover everything Numero® related, including publishing, sales, distribution,

marketing, professional development and the interschool competitions run in Western Australia on an annual basis.

**FUTURE:**

Número® has become a staple mathematics tool in hundreds of schools throughout Western Australia. The plan is for this to continue to grow to include more schools throughout WA, Australia and other parts of the world. Our objective for Número® is to become the first product schools and teachers think about when looking to teach mental maths.



Número was first demonstrated publicly in 1993, the invention of Rev. Fran Drysdale. Proving very popular, the gift of its copyright to Alzheimer's WA has raised thousands of dollars.

IETPL is also hoping to get Número® played regularly in retirement villages and aged care, as well as being used as a tool to keep people of all ages mentally fit, doing mental gymnastics with a fun game. There are significant opportunities for Número®.

The greater the demand for the product, the more product is required, and greater royalties will be paid to Alzheimer's WA. In this way students benefit mathematically, the general public mentally, and of course so does Alzheimer's WA and their clients.



Above: Alzheimer's WA CEO, Ella Dachs with the winning team

# YARNING AT HAWTHORN HOUSE

“

YARNING IS A PROCESS OF  
MAKING MEANING,  
COMMUNICATING  
AND PASSING ON  
KNOWLEDGE



Above L to R: Clients Annie Eades, Eliza Wood, Daphne Woods and Gerri Loo



Above L to R: Clients Eliza Woods, Daphne Woods, Mary Wynne, Stan Loo, Winnie Larsen and Annie Eades

Our Yarning Groups at Hawthorn House establish communication by promoting community rapport and trust among our First Nations communities. Lunches at Hawthorn House regularly consist of Elders, First Nations Health Workers and families; all of whom provide invaluable knowledge about the unique lived experience of First Nations people living with dementia. We find these informal occasions very beneficial to forming lasting connections and trust. Like many of our other initiatives, our Yarning Groups are vital when it comes to supporting

family members of people living with dementia. Scrapbooking is also held fortnightly with Noongar Elders at the local primary school and attended by school children during lunchtime, along with young First Nations women and elders.

This wonderful, informal setting with all age groups involves lots of reminiscing, across topics ranging from child rearing and health to food gathering. It provides a great opportunity to share knowledge and discuss with both young people and Elders tips to keep the brain healthy, and active to reduce the risk of dementia.



Above L to R: Clients Brian Colbung, Daphne Woods, Gerri Loo, Stan Loo and Annie Eades with Team Leader Lorraine Benson and Bambi Cumberland-Brown

# EPIC TREK RAISES \$10,000

DR. BRUCE  
MULLAN WALKED  
AN INCREDIBLE  
1000KM ALONG THE  
BIBBULMUN TRACK  
FOR ALZHEIMER'S  
WA, TAKING 49 DAYS  
TO COMPLETE THE  
IMPRESSIVE FEAT





Above L to R: Alzheimer's WA Chairman Warren Harding, Dr. Bruce Mullan, Hawthorn House Team Leader Lorraine Benson and Alzheimer's WA CEO Ella Dachs

As reported in the Albany Advertiser, Bruce, who is from Perth, celebrated the end of the trek at Albany's Hawthorn House in November 2021. He reached the finish line at Albany's new southern trail terminus after a four-week push to complete the walk.

Starting in Kalamunda, Dr. Mullan made his way to Albany, raising close to \$10,000 for people living with dementia. The cause is close to his own heart as his 58-year-old sister faces life with younger onset dementia.

"When something like that affects someone who is otherwise just so intelligent and just such a good mother - it is just so sad," the Albany Advertiser reported Dr. Mullan as saying.

"So it will be nice to think this will make a contribution to either perhaps a cure, but also caring for people."

Dr. Mullan was welcomed at Hawthorn House by

Alzheimer's WA CEO Ella Dachs, who invited him to join the team for a celebratory lunch with house leader, Lorraine Benson.

"Every day had its challenges, whether it was going up a hill or going through flooded areas where you were knee-deep in water, mosquitoes and snakes. But then every day you turn the corner and you see the ocean, or you wake up at 5am to the bird life."

Sharing lunch with his fellow UWA alumnus and friend, Warren Harding, as well as our CEO Ella Dachs, Dr. Mullan was thrilled to mark his fundraising achievement at an Alzheimer's WA property.

"Today was the icing on the cake," he said. "What a great way to finish my journey. Thanks to Warren and everyone at Alzheimer's WA for making Annie and I feel so welcome, and also for what you are doing for a very special section of our community."

“

EVERYDAY HAD ITS CHALLENGES, WHETHER IT WAS GOING UP A HILL OR GOING THROUGH FLOODED AREAS WHERE YOU WERE KNEE-DEEP IN WATER, MOSQUITOES AND SNAKES

# CELIA'S STORY

**Hawthorn House would like to say a big thank you to Celia Magnus.**

Celia who lives in Mt Barker has a stall at the Porongurup Markets every month, where she sells her homemade preserves, and donates all of the proceeds to Hawthorn House. She organised the stall and started donating

in 2019. Celia is the neighbour to a Lady who attends Hawthorn House weekly. Celia knows the importance of the service Hawthorn House provides for her friend, the wonderful connections she has made, and the client getting involved with volunteering at the local OP shop with one of our Support Workers.

“

**CELIA KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICE HAWTHORN HOUSE PROVIDES HER FRIEND.**



Above: Celia Magnus



## CARER SPOTLIGHT - NEIL CHARLESWORTH

I started to attend the monthly carer support groups as a complete novice caring for a person with Alzheimer's, but attending those meetings in the first year, I gained a great deal of information, such as taking out Enduring Power of Attorney and Power of Guardianship. Without these talks at the monthly carers meetings, I would never have known about the Carers Allowance and Carers Pension. Lorraine has managed to get some remarkably interesting speakers, not least of which were the two ladies who described their experience

of dementia and how we should be supporting others. I feel that by having these meetings at Hawthorn House on a monthly basis, we all learn a great deal and find it so meaningful to meet other carers and to hear from the various experts. Here, in Albany, we are incredibly lucky indeed to have Hawthorn House with such excellent caring staff which is so well run by Lorraine and her staff. They provide an excellent service to their clients and an extremely interesting and useful service to us carers with the monthly meetings. I would not miss the

meetings as I find them a really great help. Hawthorn House, you are to be congratulated on the service you provide to us carers with the monthly meeting. I am sure we learn a great deal from them - well I do!  
~ Neil Charlesworth

“  
WE ALL LEARN  
A GREAT DEAL  
AND FIND IT SO  
MEANINGFUL TO  
HEAR FROM THE  
VARIOUS EXPERTS.

Below L to R: Client, Jessica Flower and Volunteer, Ella Denham



## OUR SERVICES

At Alzheimer's WA we understand that everyone is different. Every person's experience living with dementia is unique. That is 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 have a person-centred philosophy to support our clients to live their life the way they choose. At home, and in the community.

We see the person, not the 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 care experts.

### The magic of music

Music has an extraordinary ability to connect people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Listening to music with emotional significance brings back strong memories for most people. It can enhance wellbeing and quality of life, and can be especially useful for people living with dementia. Studies have shown that singing has many positive benefits for people with dementia including increased focus and a positive mood. These benefits can last for days.

Friends in Harmony is a dementia friendly choir run by Alzheimer’s WA. The choir is more than just singing and music - it is an opportunity for people living with dementia, their spouses, carers and family members to have a fun afternoon where everyone is friendly and welcoming. Long standing choir members welcome newcomers to the group regularly. The choir is the only dementia-specific choir in Perth. It started ten years ago when a research professor from University of Western Australia wanted to study the positive effects of music on people living with dementia. Research showed there was a real lowering of anxiety, increased focus and a whole lot of fun and friendships made. The choir group now includes clients, their friends and carers. They sing songs that

they choose and love and are connected by music and song. It’s a wonderful experience.

The Friends in Harmony choir meets once a week. Choir leader Julie Dickenson said she keeps two things in mind: the idea that music is healing, and that it can also be fun.

“We all like fun, we all like sharing a laugh and I think that’s an important thing,” she said.

“They come because it’s familiar, they’re welcome and they have a good time. Whatever our health is, we all need friendship,” she said. Julie said it is very common for people who are interested to be worried that they can’t sing.

“We invite them along and say ‘see what you think, see if you enjoy it.’ It’s not

so much the singing, it’s showing people that they can do it and that they can have fun” she said.

### Commonwealth Home Support Program

The Commonwealth Home Support Program is for people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) who need some assistance with daily tasks to continue living at home, or to access their community. Through the Commonwealth Home Support Program we provided clients with individual support, social support, overnight respite, carer support groups, early intervention, family education and services.



Above L to R: Loris & Brenda



Above: Volunteer, Julie Dickenson



Above L to R: Client, Elspeth Morrow and Volunteer, Annette Mullan

### Services which make a difference

Receiving a diagnosis of dementia can be difficult for the person as well as their family and friends. Alzheimer's WA provides support in these early stages through some key programs to help prepare clients for the journey ahead.

Our Adjusting to Change program is designed for people living with early stage dementia. The program supports the person living with dementia and their carer by providing information about dementia and how to prepare for the journey. The program also connects clients with others who have also been recently diagnosed so they know they are not alone.

Our Family and Friends Course provides family members and friends of a person living with dementia

Carers and support groups for carers are a vital part of services Alzheimer's WA offers, ensuring those who look after those diagnosed with this disease are not alone.

a full day program about what dementia is and how to communicate and support a person living with dementia so that they can continue to live a life with meaning, purpose and joy.

Our carer support groups bring together and support

carers of people living with dementia in the community. The groups provide carers with the opportunity to discuss the impact of dementia on their lives and the lives of their loved ones, and to give and receive information and support.

### Home Care Packages

Home care packages are a Government subsidy designed to support clients over 65 years of age in their own home. There are four levels of home care packages available. Levels three and four are often referred to as high level packages and are the most common for people living with dementia. After successfully becoming a home care package service provider in early 2019, Alzheimer's WA has continued to grow this service.

### Home is where the heart is

Our Houses in Shenton Park, Mandurah and Albany provide care environments. Through their design, people, and culture, they enable people living with



Above L to R: Carer, Jennifer Warner and Client, John Warner with Support Worker, Bev Simpson

Below: Client, June Dempster

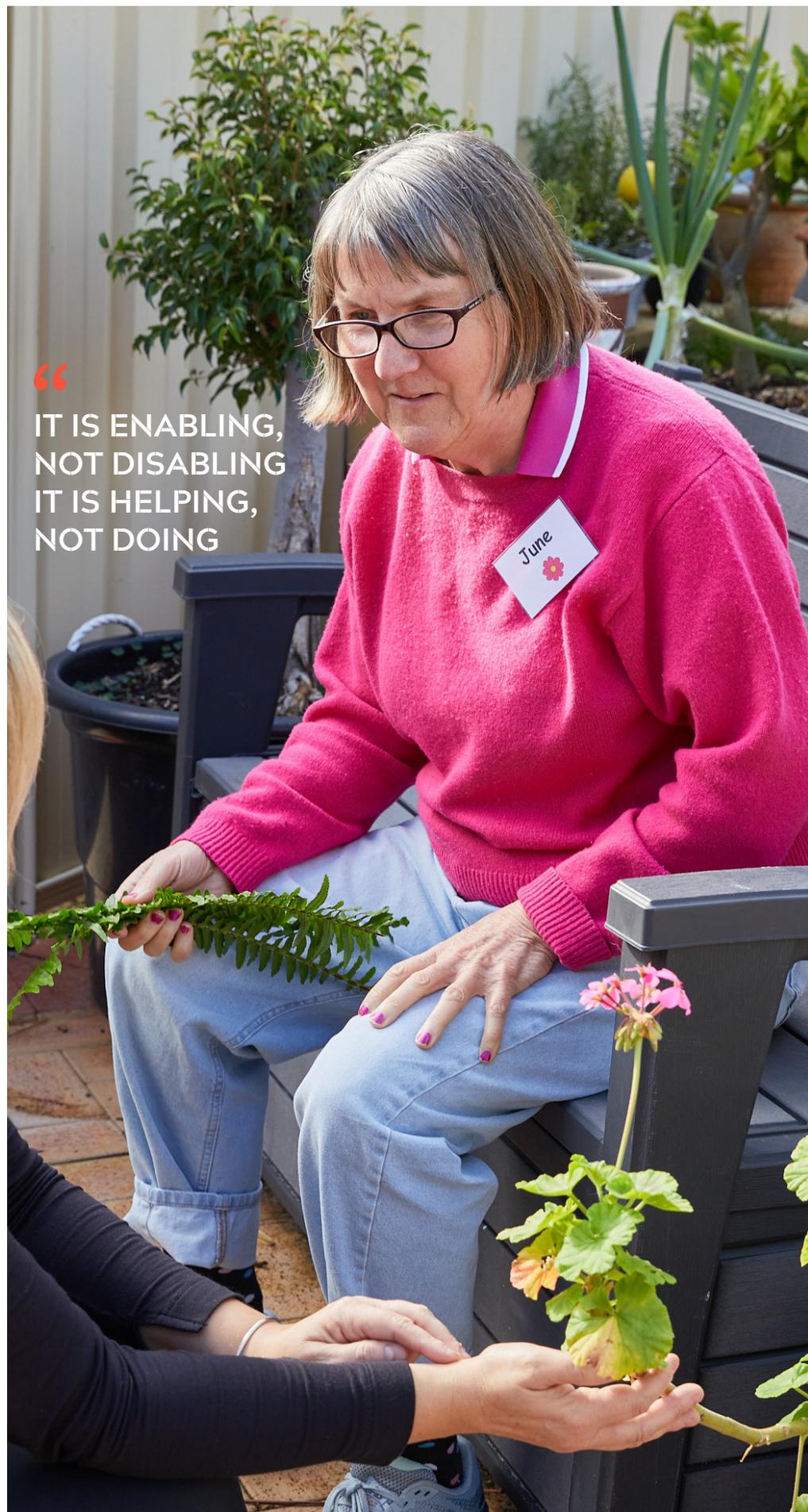
dementia to live their best life.

Our houses are enabling, not disabling. It is helping, not doing. When environments become unfamiliar, the best care and support should feel like coming home. At our Houses, new friendships are made and we support clients to continue doing the things most important to them. They choose what they want to do each day. Whether that means relaxing in an armchair and listening to their favourite music, or baking a favourite sweet treat which reminds them of their childhood. The choice is theirs, every day.

**National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

The NDIS is a government subsidy designed to provide people under 65 years of age, and with a permanent and significant disability, with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live their best life. Receiving a diagnosis of dementia can be challenging at any age, however things can be considerably more complex for a younger person - particularly if they are still working, paying a mortgage or looking after a young family.

Alzheimer’s WA supported clients living with younger onset dementia through the NDIS.



“  
IT IS ENABLING,  
NOT DISABLING  
IT IS HELPING,  
NOT DOING



Above L to R: Assistant Coordinator, Bev Smith and Client, Doris Atkins

### One step at a time

Our occupational therapy services are delivered by qualified health professionals who specialise in enabling people with dementia to continue participating in everyday life, and to retain their existing abilities for as long as possible.

Self-care tasks involve a surprisingly high number of steps. For a person with dementia, it may only be one step that is causing an issue and preventing them from completing a task. An occupational therapist observes the person completing each step of the task, identifies which

areas are causing difficulty and provides simple and practical strategies for how to overcome each issue. Our occupational therapists complete home assessments of a client's cognition, function and home environment to determine their strengths and impairments in completing everyday tasks.

Often, a small and inexpensive change will help clients to remain in their own home, independently and safely, for as long as possible. Alzheimer's WA has also delivered occupational therapy to our clients living with dementia.

We understand dementia and our courses are designed to help others understand dementia too.

“

**OFTEN, A SMALL AND INEXPENSIVE CHANGE WILL HELP CLIENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR OWN HOME, INDEPENDENTLY AND SAFELY, FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.**

## ALZHEIMER'S WA TRAINING COLLEGE

Alzheimer's WA is a nationally accredited Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and runs the Alzheimer's WA Training College.

The Training College offers accredited and non-accredited courses and is a leader in providing dementia specific education in Western Australia. The Training College was successful in gaining Priority Industry Training funding to offer subsidised enrolment for people to complete a Certificate III Individual Support (Ageing, Home and Community) - CHC33015.

Through the State Government's Enterprise Training Program, the Training College delivered dementia-specific qualifications to leading aged care providers throughout Western Australia.

The Training College contributes to our mission to be the dementia care experts by providing specialist education to Alzheimer's WA staff members including Dementia Support Service Delivery Skill Set (Release 1) - CHCSS00095 and our signature qualification

Certificate IV Leadership and Innovation in Dementia Services - 10719NAT

### Training the next generation of support workers

The Alzheimer's WA Training College courses are designed to teach support workers and others who work in aged care how to support a person with dementia.

In Australia, one in ten people over the age of 65 will be diagnosed with dementia. Around two thirds of people living with dementia live at home, and many will need in-home support to continue living at home as they age. Of those people who live in residential

care homes, approximately 70% live with dementia.

The prevalence of dementia in our communities is expected to increase dramatically in the next few decades. It makes sense to ensure our aged care workforce has the knowledge and skills to support people living with dementia.

Our Certificate III in Individual Support - CHC33015 is unique in that our person-centred philosophy is woven into every unit. Our Certificate IV Leadership and Innovation in Dementia Services is the only dementia-specific Certificate IV available in Australia.



**Angela, one of our recent graduates, shared her thoughts with us after completing the course.**

“This course has changed my life. I’ve become much better with my time management skills and have become fluent

in Microsoft Office software.

“The trainers were fantastic and I now feel that I am better equipped to support clients living with dementia and their families.”

# EDUCATION



The Alzheimer's WA Education and Consulting teams deliver both community and sector development services. Education initiatives incorporate community engagement through our work with families and friends of people living with dementia and the delivery of short programs supporting businesses and communities enabling dementia inclusive places and spaces.

Through our RTO, we offer sector entry level and nationally-recognised training through our Certificate III in Individual Support, our Dementia Skillset program, and our flagship Certificate IV in Leadership and Innovation in Dementia Services.

We support advocacy and awareness programs through the Alzheimer's WA Community Champion's work and develop sector change and acute care change through our Dementia Change Champions Program

and the hospital embedded Acute Champions program.

These industry leading dementia specific learning and development programs are focused on capacity building, community and



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WE SUPPORT  
ADVOCACY AND  
AWARENESS  
PROGRAMS THROUGH  
THE ALZHEIMER'S  
WA COMMUNITY  
CHAMPION'S WORK

sector awareness and change, and integrate our work across diverse settings and contexts.

The consulting practice operates across five capability domains linking person-centred expert care, dementia communities of practice, dementia inclusive communities, dementia enabling environments, and early and protective interventions.

The consulting work stems from research and sector partnerships that are enabled through the Dementia Partnerships Program and our direct industry and community engagement to deliver dementia specific change leadership across organizational and professional practices.

The consulting work provides the bridge between engagement, workforce and community development, and improvement in care with the goal of extending the ability of all people living with dementia to age well and meaningfully in place.



## DEMENTIA CHANGE CHAMPION

- Winner Danielle Criddle with CEO Ella Dachs

Awarded at our 2021 Symposium, **The Dementia Change Champion™** Program is a capacity-building program that supports organisations to develop and maintain a skilled workforce to better support the needs of people living with dementia in the community. This capacity-building model has been identified as the most effective way to share innovation and best practice in dementia care with organisations in Western Australia.

Participants enrolled into this Program will

have access to nationally accredited training, ongoing mentoring and support, access to Alzheimer's WA's extensive resources and networking opportunities. On completion of the program, Dementia Change Champions™ have the knowledge and leadership skills to develop staff within their own organisation in the specialised field of dementia care, using a person-centred approach.

There are different Dementia Change Champion Programs tailored to the needs of different sectors.



# CONSULTING



Above: Client, Doug Marsden

Below L to R: Clients Jessie Flower and Katie Steven

Alzheimer's WA works in partnership with community aged care and disability providers. Our capacity building model brings our dementia expertise to support the development of your services and environments through training, consultancy and client service brokerage.

Alzheimer's WA's consultancy and education specialists are leaders in dementia training and translation of evidence to practice. With many years' experience, Alzheimer's WA can support an organisation's goals and aspirations to be a provider of choice to the growing number of people living with dementia.



Our inter-disciplinary consultancy and education specialists include:

- Experienced Allied Health Professionals
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Educators
- Design Professionals
- Change Process Practitioners

Alzheimer’s WA has a wealth of dementia experience and expertise across a broad range of disciplines and can assist organisations to become dementia care experts too across a wide range of care and community environments.

### Dementia Partnership Project

The Dementia Partnership Project is a partnership between the Western Australian Department of Health and Alzheimer’s WA which aims to enhance the experience and improve the quality of life of people living with dementia in the community who access support services.

The project’s primary aim is to build capacity within the community care sector in a variety of ways, with a focus on assisting community care providers and health professionals to further develop their skills when responding to the needs of people living with dementia.



Above: Client, Harold Clasen

## DEMENTIA ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

An enabling environment will encourage a person with dementia to lead as full and independent a life as possible. There are many simple modifications that could be made in the home and garden, as well as architectural design changes to the home.

Alzheimer’s WA, in partnership with the University of Wollongong, created the Dementia Enabling Environments website to help you understand evidence-based dementia design principles and give practical advice and tips on creating a dementia friendly home, care facility or public building.

The Dementia Friendly Community Environmental Audit Tool can help guide you through assessing your public building.

The Dementia enabling website and the Dementia Friendly Community Environmental Audit Tool can both be accessed via the Alzheimer’s WA website.

# PHILANTHROPY



Above L to R: Support Worker, Rhonda May and Client, Grahame Blacklock



Above L to R: Clients Kathy Bell and Edna Herbertson

Alzheimer's WA is proud to have a community of passionate supporters who donate, fundraise and participate in our events. The generosity of our supporters allows Alzheimer's WA to deliver programs above and beyond what Government funding can provide including Dementia Advocates, Dementia Friendly Communities and the choir.

**Community Fundraisers**

Sincere thanks to our dedicated community fundraisers. The effort, creativity and passion these supporters put into fundraising on our behalf is truly inspiring.



Above L to R: Clients Winnie Larsen, Stan Loo, Ken Youngson and Gerri Loo

**Bequests**

We are thankful to all who have been inspired to leave a legacy in their Will. These gestures are very much appreciated and we acknowledge with gratitude those who bequeathed part of their Estate to Alzheimer's WA.

# RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIPS



Above L to R: Professor Yogi Kanagasingam, Professor Bronwyn Myers-Franchi, Adjunct Professor Warren Harding and Professor John Mamo

## Today the Care, Tomorrow the Cure

Dementia research translation into new models of care is a key element of Alzheimer's WA's mission and the focus of its Research and Partnership program. We have a strong commitment to supporting dementia research and to advance the understanding of best practice dementia care for Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Through the donations we receive, we contribute to project funding to support researchers in exploring early detection, early intervention, lifestyle prevention, treatment and cure for dementia. We also engage in, and encourage our members to participate in, research trials to further our knowledge and develop evidence for best practice through partnerships with research institutions. These partnerships currently include collaborations with local, national and international researchers and universities.

Prevention of AD with lifestyle change remains just as important as ever. Improvement in the understanding of risk factors combined with screening and early detection will support early intervention

and earlier access to Alzheimer's WA counselling, memory cafés and respite services. Lifestyle modification to reduce the risk of cognitive decline is still highly encouraged on the basis of earlier trials such as the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability (FINGER). Similar trials are underway worldwide, including the AU - ARROW study which is recruiting in Perth.

Alzheimer's WA provides information to its members and dementia advocates' network on the latest research trials taking place and raises awareness of opportunities to participate in research studies being undertaken. Involving people living with dementia either directly or indirectly in the research programs is a key priority for us.

Dementia is the leading cause of death for women and the second most common cause of death in Australia and is becoming increasingly common in low and middle income countries. Making progress in treatment and prevention relies on people taking part in clinical trials, including healthy cognitively

unimpaired as well as PLWD.

## Supporting Our Research Program

Our key focus is on supporting research projects that help support people living with dementia and the person caring for them. Where research donations are made with specific intent for medical research, or to help find a cure, Alzheimer's WA will partner with medical research groups to use this funding for its identified purpose.



## StepUp for Dementia Research

Alzheimer's WA is pleased to be partnering with the University of Sydney in developing a new way for people to get involved in dementia research. The StepUp program will allow people living with dementia, carers, family and the general public to register their interest in volunteering for research projects in dementia treatment and care. Researchers undertaking studies will also be able to register their projects for people to see and volunteer in. This Australian first project aims to link researchers with

study volunteers in order to increase the effectiveness and outcomes of dementia research. If you would like to view more information please visit the StepUp for Dementia Research website.

### Alzheimer's Research Highlights

Amyloid is considered to lead to the formation of phosphorylated tau protein, tangles, neuronal loss and cognitive impairment. Neuroinflammation is thought to drive this process and increasing evidence supports the involvement of the native immune cells in the brain, the microglia, as major players.

The most interesting development in Alzheimer's Disease research and treatment is the decision by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2021 to approve aducanumab (marketed as "Aduhelm"), an antibody directed against beta amyloid for clinical use. It has been heralded as a major advance, a disease modifying therapy that removes beta amyloid from the brain- the first new therapy in decades which gives the pharmaceutical industry confidence to continue to pursue other therapies.

The source of beta amyloid has been presumed to be from the brain. However, recent work from Curtin University researchers suggest that much of it may be derived from the liver

and delivered to the brain via lipoproteins increased by a diet high in saturated fat. They used transgenic mice who make more amyloid precursor protein but only in the liver and not brain. These mice displayed damage to brain capillaries and the blood brain barrier, allowing leakage of beta amyloid and lipoprotein into the brain. This highlights the importance of diet. A trial is now underway to use probucol, (a drug previously used to treat cholesterol which may protect brain capillaries and the blood brain barrier) in people with mild AD (PIA study). More information on how to participate in this Curtin trial can be found at [www.piastudy.com.au](http://www.piastudy.com.au)

Progress is also being made with new blood tests for p-tau-217 which would be accurate enough to act as a diagnostic test for AD. Further work is required to enable reliable "cut-off" levels to reliably detect people in the pre-symptomatic phase, when therapies are likely to have the most benefit. Hence, designing risk prediction algorithms that combine blood tests with other markers of risk is underway and promising.

We are fortunate in WA to have access to participation in both Australian and International trials in Perth via a number of sites including the Australian Alzheimer's Research

Foundation. Alzheimer's WA is also pleased to be partnering with Notre Dame University on anterior and posterior eye tests for the early detection of amyloid protein.

### Research Partnerships

Our dementia expertise can be a valuable contribution to research projects. Our staff, clients and families may provide reference group membership or associate investigator/ chief investigator roles to strengthen the collaboration in projects.

If you would like to discuss a research partnership with Alzheimer's WA, please contact: Warren Harding - Chairman of Alzheimer's WA and Head of Research & Partnerships

Our research partnerships include:



# OUR PEOPLE



At Alzheimer's WA, we only recruit individuals who are committed to our vision, values and philosophy, thereby creating better outcomes for those living with dementia and their carers. With a number of long serving staff members and dedicated volunteers, we would especially like to acknowledge the following service milestones achieved this year:

## 5 years of service

Sharon Richards  
Durba Foneca  
Rosemary Stenson  
Ben Lombardo

## 10 years of service

Roger Smith  
Elizabeth Lord  
Anne Newman

## 20 years of service

Beverly Simpson  
Stephen Lowry

## 25 years of service

Jean George



## Volunteers

Alzheimer's WA values the contribution of our volunteers.

### Mandurah - Ella's House

Crislyn Baron  
Ann Pirrie  
Denise Maslin

### Albany - Hawthorn House

Anna Maria Annese  
Tearyn Badger  
Anne Bail  
George Burdon  
Ruth Birtwistle  
Ruth Coffey  
Derek Collis  
Maria Feld  
Valma George  
Leearna Gillett  
Jane Heath  
Anita Jay  
Jennifer Kaczmarczyk  
Manita Karndee  
Scott Larking  
Graham Leembruggen  
Jenny Lloyd  
Desmond Madden  
Dawn Milliken

Kevin Mooney  
Annette Mullan  
Heather Nelson  
Tania Nelson  
Agnes Mary Noack Skinner  
Janice Perry  
Scott Plunkett  
Jennifer Redman  
Annette Sanders  
Molly Smith  
Wendy Spinks  
Therese Strong  
Colin Taylor  
Mike Taylor  
Elizabeth West  
Raymond Whittington  
Philippa Williams  
Graham Wilson  
Judith Wilson  
Brian Wisewould  
Steven Wright

### Shenton Park - Mary Chester House

Terry Byrne  
Heather Mernick  
Matthew Robinson  
Jackie Tang  
Ann Zubrick  
Mimma Ialacci  
Sonia Grincer  
Brooke Bonnell



Above L to R: Client, Tony London with Alzheimer's WA Chairman, Warren Harding

## Hawthorn House showcases talented artists

The Hawthorn House art group in Albany hosted their first exhibition. It made for a stunning example of how artistic endeavours allow clients to find or rediscover their passion for art.

All the exhibiting artists were clients of Hawthorn House and members of Alzheimer's WA and had spent many Wednesday afternoons fine-tuning their skills under the tutelage of Bambi Cumberland-Brown.

The group, which was formed in early 2021, is a way of introducing a relaxing, creative activity to the group. As their confidence grows over time, club members are rediscovering long dormant skills in wonderful new ways.

"At the beginning there was a little apprehension of what was expected and the uncertainty of ability," the

Albany Advertiser reported Ms Cumberland-Brown as saying.

"That soon evaporated as confidence blossomed. The initiative grew over weeks into relaxing, creative companionship as the group shared techniques and encouraged each other. Some of the club members are now taking up their brushes and pencils once again and working on projects long left untouched at home."

The exhibition was opened by former Albany MP Peter Watson.

“  
THE INITIATIVE GREW  
OVER WEEKS INTO A  
RELAXING, CREATIVE  
COMPANIONSHIP

## Currying up smiles

On June 16, Mary Chester House had the privilege of holding a curry night for friends and family.

The incredible Marsh Group (below) once again volunteered their time and cooked the most delicious curries, a feast was served to 50 guests.

A huge thank you to Iain and Teri for making the night extra special, as well as to Aishath for her scrumptious samosas and Paula for the yummy dahl.

Families who attended appreciated the generosity and kindness at Mary Chester House during the evening. It was a night filled with great food and laughter - and, as one family member put it, "It was good to see everyone smiling and the camaraderie shown at the event."

It takes a dedicated team to make these nights so special and for all those who volunteered their time, Alzheimer's WA thanks you.





## OUR HOUSES

Based around our Enabling Household™, our dementia specialist households in Perth, Albany and Mandurah provide an evidence based environment that seeks to maximise wellbeing in the person living with dementia. Providing a wide range of meaningful activities based on

the person's strengths, identity and interests, the houses provide meaningful engagement, stimulation and friendship in specially designed dementia enabling environments. For further information about any of our houses please phone 1300 66 77 88.

## Our Houses



Above L to R: Clients Alan Thompson, Nick Kingsbridge, Kenneth Gifford, Steve Wood, Mike Bussell, John Warner and Peter Fletcher



**Shenton Park**  
9 Bedbrook Place

**Julie Szczurowski**  
*Northeast Regional Manager*  
*Mary Chester House*



Above L to R: Clients Alan Webb and Peter Thompson



**Mandurah**  
11 Candelo Loop

**Melissa Randall**  
*Southeast Regional Manager*  
*Ella's House*



Above L to R: Support Worker Vanessa Hill, Volunteer Anne Bail, Assistant Coordinators Bev Smith & Anne Newman, Volunteer Ella Denham, Admin Officer Emily Boegheim, Support Workers Rhonda May & Murni Wright, Coordinator Marlane Ainsworth, Team Leader Lorraine Benson and Support Worker Venetia Marshall



**Albany**  
40 Henry Street

**Lorraine Benson**  
*Regional Manager, Albany*  
*Hawthorn House*

# A PLACE TO SHARE SKILLS, THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES

The Men's Shed movement is an important part of keeping community connections and social interaction for men.

By BROOKE EVANS-BUTLER



Above L to R: Clients Ken Youngson and Steve Makin

**WHEN YOU WALK** into the Men's Shed at Mary Chester House there is the glorious smell of sawn timber, and the sound of laughter. A few chairs are pulled up near a work bench, with cups of tea and a plate of snacks tell-tale signs of one of the important 'meetings' that

have already taken place earlier that morning. Every Friday a group of men come here together to tinker away at projects, and to enjoy each other's company.

Keith has been coming to the Men's Shed for about 12 months. "It is great here - it

is excellent," he says. "I think what I like the most about it is that it gives my wife some peace. Secondly it gives me a different environment to come to, and it lets me do wood work with a bunch of really good guys. It is pretty good all round. The people here, the Mary Chester staff - they just make you feel good."

Neil has been coming to the Men's Shed for three years. The other men say Neil does quite a bit of work for the Men's Shed at home. On this particular day, he has brought in a pile of timber that he has cut down ready for a project. "I was a wood machinist for 35 years until I retired," he says. "I have always liked making things. It is good here, especially when there are three or four of you, because you always get a comedian somewhere along the line."

Terry has been volunteering at the Men's Shed at Mary Chester House for 10 years. "I enjoy every moment," he says. "Neil is quite a character, so is Keith; it is nice being with them."

"I love coming here otherwise I would just be sitting at home, probably doing a crossword or playing



Above L to R: Volunteers Matt Robinson and Terry Byrne, with clients Neil Horgan and Keith Bleach

on my tablet,” he adds. “If Julie (from Mary Chester House) came and said someone wanted to come in on a Wednesday or a Tuesday, I would say: ‘I’ll be here’.”

Then there’s Matt, who started volunteering at the Men’s Shed when his friend Keith started attending. “I have volunteered for lots of things through different organisations and as far as I am concerned, life without volunteering would be pretty boring,” he says. “These are great guys to work with. I am learning a great deal from them.”

The most recent addition to the group is 14-year-old Harry, who first attended one

week ago, and has already made a good impression.

“Harry looked around and said he wanted to make a finger board skateboard,” Matt says. “We watched him when he was working with the tools and he was fine.

The first one wasn’t a perfect design and the second one broke while he was working on it, but the third one is coming along quite well. He is learning a fair bit about resilience. He is very polite, with incredible manners.”

“The guys have shown me around and told me what to do and how to use the tools,” Harry says. “It has been a great experience.”

The men work on various projects, which are usually sold, with any funds raised going back to the Men’s Shed and Mary Chester House. However, it is clear it isn’t just the projects that are important here, but the connections made during the process.

“I think one of the important things about Men’s Sheds generally is that it is chance for blokes to get together and talk in a working environment,” Matt adds.

“We are our own worst enemies and don’t talk to anyone about our problems, but for some reason, when you are working it is ok to talk about things.”



Above L to R: Alzheimer's WA CEO Ella Dachs, Dr. Sean Maher, Alzheimer's WA Chairman Warren Harding, Western Australia Deputy Premier, Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Mr. Arnold Stroobach, Matthew Budge, Mrs. Majo Merriam and Mr. Leo Tsaknis

## DIRECTORS REPORT

# DIRECTORS REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Your directors present this report to the members of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Directors	Date Appointed	Board	
		A	B
Mrs Jenny Rogers	Nov 2004	3	3
Mr Craig Maserai	Nov 2002	1	1
Dr Sean Maher	Sept 2010	11	11
Mr Arnold Stroobach	Nov 2012	10	11
Mr Matt Budge	Nov 2018	10	11
Mr Warren Harding	Dec 2018	11	11
Mrs Ella Dachs	Oct 2019	10	11
Mrs Majo Merriam	June 2020	11	11
Mr Leo Tsaknis	June 2020	10	11

**A** Number of meetings attended

**B** Number of meetings held during the time the Director held office during the year [including AGM]

Details of directors' qualifications, experience and special responsibilities are contained in the table below.

Directors	Qualifications	Experience	Special Responsibilities
Mrs Jenny Rogers	Wealth Management Director	Financial Advisor/ Equities, Superannuation, Managed Funds. NFP Industry.	Director Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Dr Sean Maher	Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians	Head of Dept of Rehabilitation and Aged Care at Sir Charles Gairdner.	Honorary Medical Director Nominations Committee Research Committee Deputy Chair
Mr Arnold Stroobach	Masters in Business Administration Masters in Medical Informatics	Management experience in technology, innovation and commercialisation.	Director Company Secretary Property, Redevelopment Committee.
Mr Matt Budge	Bachelor of Commerce Masters of Taxation Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand	Broad range of business, tax and finance experience in diverse industries in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.	Finance Director Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Adjunct Professor Warren Harding	Bachelor of Science (1st Hons) Grad Dip. Media Brit Council Scholar (LSE) Adj Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin	Strategic Consulting across health, life- sciences, aged care public and private sector. Ex Managing Partner, Accenture, PWC,McKinsey & CO. Minister for Health's nominee Sustainable Health Review, current Board member Disability Services Commission.	Chairman Nominations Committee Research and Partnerships Committee Marketing, Branding, Fundraising Committee
Mrs Ella Dachs	Bachelor of Business (Org Psychology/ Human Resource Management) P.Grad Dip. Marketing	International experience in organisation and human capital strategy consulting specialising in change and business transformation across multiple industries and sectors.	Director Former Nominations Committee Marketing and Branding Committee Chief Executive Officer
Ms Mellisa Teede	Diploma Teaching Post Grad Leadership units	Extensive experience in WA public sector, high level strategy and policy skills in education and training sectors and in the regional economic and social development sector.	Director Property, Redevelopment Committee
Mr Leo Tsaknis	Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Laws Master of Laws	Experience in government, academia and private practice. Policy advice and Legal adviser in the Federal Attorney-General's Department, , Counsel High Court of Australia, Supreme Court, Federal Court of Australia, administrative tribunals, disciplinary and investigative bodies.	Director
Mrs Majo Merriam	Bachelor of Arts Masters of Social Work	Extensive knowledge in aged care, dementia and community services. Accredited assessor and delegate to the Aged Care Assessment Team at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital.	Director

### New Appointments

Mrs Ella Dachs was appointed by the Board as Chief Executive Officer (Interim) in October 2020 and then as Chief Executive Officer with effect from July 2021.

Mr Arnold Stroobach was re-appointed to the Board as Director and elected as Company Secretary in December 2020.

### Resignations

Mr Craig Maserai resigned from the Board in July 2020.

Mrs Jenny Rogers resigned from the Board in September 2020.

Mrs Ella Dachs resigned as director of the Board in October 2020. She was appointed by the Board as Chief Executive Officer (Interim).

Mr Arnold Stroobach resigned as director of the Board in October 2020, he filled a casual vacancy until re-elected in December 2020.

Ms Mellisa Teede resigned from the Board in December 2020.

Mr Leo Tsaknis resigned from the Board in September 2021.

### Principal activities

The company's principal activities during the year were;

- To provide representation and support while advancing the interest of individuals with dementia and their carers at a personal, community and political level.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the company's activities during the year.

A detailed review of operations can be found in the annual report, which accompanies this financial report.

### Operating result and review of operations

The operating result for the year was a surplus of \$1,389,393 (2020: Surplus \$501,403). The company is exempt from income tax.

### Dividends

The company's constitution precludes the payment of dividends.

### Change in state of affairs

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions impacted the financial year 2020-21. During the restriction periods Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd suspended group related services and activities.

### After balance date events

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of the report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature that in the opinion of the directors is likely to substantially affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

### Future developments

The company will continue to carry on the principal activities noted above. There are no likely developments in the activities in future years, which will affect the results and therefore require disclosure.

**Auditor's independence**

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under s.60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* is included in page 4 of this financial report and forms part of the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

**Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors**

Since the end of the previous financial year, the company has paid insurance premiums in respect of directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses' insurance contracts for current and former directors and officers, including senior executives of the company. The insurance premiums relate to:

- Costs and expenses incurred by the relevant officers in defending proceedings whether civil or criminal and whatever the outcome.
- Other liabilities that may arise from their position, with the exception of conduct involving wilful breach of duty or improper use of information or position to gain a personal advantage.

The company has not otherwise indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the company against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

  
DIRECTOR

  
DIRECTOR

PERTH  
DATED 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021

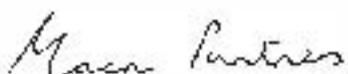
# AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

## Under ACMA Act Section 60-40 To the Directors of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd

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In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd. As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.




MACRI PARTNERS  
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
 SUITE 2, 137, BURSWOOD ROAD BURSWOOD  
 WA 6100

A MACRI  
 PARTNER

PERTH  
 DATED THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## To the Members of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd

### Report on the Concise Financial Report

The accompanying concise financial report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended and related notes, derived from the audited financial report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021, as well as the discussion and analysis. The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards.

### Directors' Responsibility for the Concise Financial Report

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the concise financial report in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: *Concise Financial Reports* (including Australian Accounting Interpretations), statutory and other requirements. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation of the concise financial report; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Concise Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the concise financial report based on our audit procedures. We have conducted an independent audit, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the full financial report of **Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd** for the year ended 30 June 2021. Our auditor's report on the financial report for the year was signed on 11th November 2021 and was unmodified. Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with the relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report for the year is free from material misstatement.

Our procedures in respect of the concise financial report included testing that the information in the concise financial report is derived from, and is consistent with the financial report for the year, and examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts, discussion, and analysis, and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the concise financial report complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: *Concise Financial Reports* and whether the discussion and analysis complies with the requirements laid down in AASB 1039.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board.

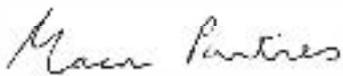
**Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the concise financial report, including the discussion and analysis of **Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd** for the year ended 30 June 2021 complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports.

**Emphasis of Matter in the Auditor's Report on the Financial Report/or the Year**

The following paragraph is copied from our report on the financial report for the year. The emphasis of matter in that report does not apply to our opinion on the Concise Financial Report for the reason stated above in our Auditor's Opinion.

We draw attention to the fact that cash donations and gifts are a source of revenue for **Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd**. Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over cash donations and gifts prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to cash donations and gifts have to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. Our opinion is unmodified in respect of this matter.



MACRI PARTNERS  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
SUITE 2, 137, BURSWOOD ROAD  
BURSWOOD WA 6100

A MACRI  
PARTNER

PERTH  
DATED THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021

## Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Statements

Information on the company's concise financial report for the year ended 30th June 2021

The financial statements and disclosures in the Concise Financial Report have been derived from the 2021 Financial Report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd and is an extract from the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be sent to any member, free of charge, upon request.

The information about the concise financial report is provided to assist members in understanding this report and is based on the company's consolidated financial statements and has been derived from the full 2021 Financial Report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd.

### Statement of Comprehensive Income

The net surplus for the year was \$1,389,393 which has increased by \$887,990 from the prior year (2020: \$501,403).

Total income for the year was \$13,541,922 which has increased by \$865,636 from the prior year (2020: \$12,676,286).

Total expenses for the year was \$12,152,529 which is largely consistent with prior year (2020: \$12,174,883)

The higher net surplus for the year is primarily due to the increase in client delivery hours across all areas of the organisation.

Other comprehensive income for the year relates to an increase in fair value of financial assets of

\$363,222 (2020 \$103,287 loss).

### Statement of Financial Position

The total assets of the Company increased by \$3,562,299 to \$30,436,598 (2020: \$26,874,299). This increase is primarily attributable to an increase in the cash and cash equivalents and to trade and other receivables.

Total liabilities of the Company increased by \$1,809,684 to \$13,160,367 (2020: \$11,350,683) primarily as a result of an increase in unexpended grant income.

### Statement of Cash Flows

Cash generated from operating activities of \$2,478,281 has decreased from the prior year (2020: \$3,366,888). This decrease is related to lower cash inflows from government grants and higher payments to suppliers and employees.

Cashflows from investing activities were a net outflow of \$135,465 (2020: \$364,969) and cashflows from financing activities were a net outflow of \$218,685 (2020: \$241,372).

In total there has been an increase in cash and cash equivalents for the year of \$2,124,131.

### Statement of Changes in Equity

The total equity of the Company has increased by \$1,752,615 to \$17,276,231 from the prior year (2020: 15,523,616) which is explained by the net surplus for the year and increase in fair value of financial assets.

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Income	2 (a), (b)	13,541,922	12,676,286
Employee benefits expense		(9,676,331)	9,328,102
Depreciation and amortisation expense	2 (c)	(362,478)	(395,674)
Finance costs	2 (c)	(24,810)	(20,303)
Other expenses		(2,088,910)	(2,430,804)
		(12,152,529)	(12,174,883)
<b>Net surplus (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>1,389,393</b>	<b>501,403</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income:</b>			
<b>Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:</b>			
Net change in fair value of financial assets			
Revaluation (loss) / gain		363,222	(103,287)
		-	(1,174,047)
Total other comprehensive (loss) / income for the year		363,222	(1,277,334)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,752,615</b>	<b>(775,931)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the company</b>		<b>1,752,615</b>	<b>(775,931)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	14,060,541	11,936,410
Trade and other receivables	993,645	495,124
Inventories	3,194	3,194
Prepayments	295,570	49,111
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>15,352,950</u>	<u>12,483,839</u>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Financial Assets	2,158,709	1,795,487
Property, Plant and Equipment	12,375,495	12,393,252
Intangible Assets	7,009	14,106
Right of use Asset	542,435	187,615
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<u>15,083,648</u>	<u>14,390,460</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>30,436,598</u>	<u>26,874,299</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	9,730,245	8,174,601
Borrowings	700,000	500,000
Lease liability	152,323	152,074
Provisions	614,614	639,477
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>11,197,182</u>	<u>9,466,152</u>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	1,300,000	1,500,000
Lease liability	395,405	38,961
Provisions	267,780	345,570
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,963,185</u>	<u>1,884,531</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>13,160,367</u>	<u>11,350,683</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>17,276,231</u>	<u>15,523,616</u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>		
Revaluation Surplus	8,111,563	8,111,563
Financial Assets Reserve	663,502	300,280
Retained Earnings	8,501,166	7,111,773
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<u>17,276,231</u>	<u>15,523,616</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Retained Earnings	Revaluation Surplus	Financial Assets Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>6,542,584</b>	<b>9,285,610</b>	<b>471,373</b>	<b>16,299,547</b>
Net Surplus attributable to operating activities of the company	501,403	-	-	501,403
Other Comprehensive Income	-	(1,174,047)	(103,287)	(1,277,334)
Transfer of reasec loss – AASB 9	67,806	-	(67,806)	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>7,111,773</b>	<b>8,111,563</b>	<b>300,280</b>	<b>15,523,616</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>	<b>7,111,773</b>	<b>8,111,563</b>	<b>300,280</b>	<b>15,523,616</b>
Net Surplus attributable to operating activities of the company	1,389,393	-	-	1,389,393
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	363,222	363,222
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>8,501,166</b>	<b>8,111,563</b>	<b>663,502</b>	<b>17,276,231</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from:		
- Donations and gifts	334,941	555,159
- Government grants	9,099,470	10,642,972
- Interest received	5,424	37,571
Dividends received	77,877	84,252
- Fees & Charges	5,765,086	3,425,832
- Other Receipts	31,115	491
GST Paid	(570,477)	(810,450)
Payments to suppliers and employees	(12,240,417)	(10,556,736)
Borrowing Costs	(24,538)	(20,303)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2,478,281</b>	<b>3,369,886</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(135,465)	(178,378)
Proceeds from sale of financial assets	-	261,007
Purchase of financial assets	-	(447,588)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(135,465)</b>	<b>(364,959)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Lease payments	(218,885)	(241,372)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(218,885)</b>	<b>(241,372)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,124,131	2,760,547
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	11,936,410	9,175,863
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>14,060,541</b>	<b>11,936,410</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### Note 1: Basis of Preparation of the Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report is an extract of the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2021. The concise financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard MSB 1039: Concise Financial Reports and the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements, specific disclosures and other information included in the concise financial report are derived from, and are consistent with, the full financial report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd. The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd as the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be sent to any member, free of charge upon request.

A Statement of Compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS') as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ('IASB') cannot be made due to the company applying Not-for-Profit specific requirements contained in the Australian Accounting Standards. The presentation currency used in this concise financial report is in Australian dollars.

Services provided during the year on a volunteer basis have not been recognised as expense or revenue in the financial statements.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note 2: REVENUE, OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>		
<b>(a) Revenue</b>		
Sale of goods	-	491
Rendering of services	6,046,404	3,545,614
Government grants	6,944,584	8,443,199
Donations and gifts	334,941	565,159
Sundry Income	131,115	-
<b>(b) Other income</b>		
Investment income		
- Interest	7,201	37,571
- Dividends	77,677	84,252
<b>(c) Expenses</b>		
Finance costs	24,810	20,303
Depreciation	362,478	395,674
Consultancy fee	194,473	507,084
Loss on disposal of investment	-	15,136
Loss on disposal of plant, property and equipment	5,915	5,664
<b>(d) Auditors' remuneration</b>		
External Audit	20,000	20,000
	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>

### Note 3: SEGMENT REPORTING

The company operates predominately in one business and geographical segment being provision of community services in Western Australia.

### Note 4: EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

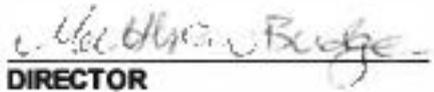
There are no matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the financial year that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the company except for the information disclosed in the Directors' report.

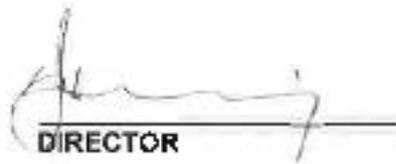
### DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The Directors of the Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd declare that the accompanying concise financial report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021:

- a. complied with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports; and
- b. is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2021 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of Alzheimer's Australia WA Ltd.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors

  
**DIRECTOR**

  
**DIRECTOR**

PERTH

DATED 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021



# alzheimer's wa

the dementia care experts

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