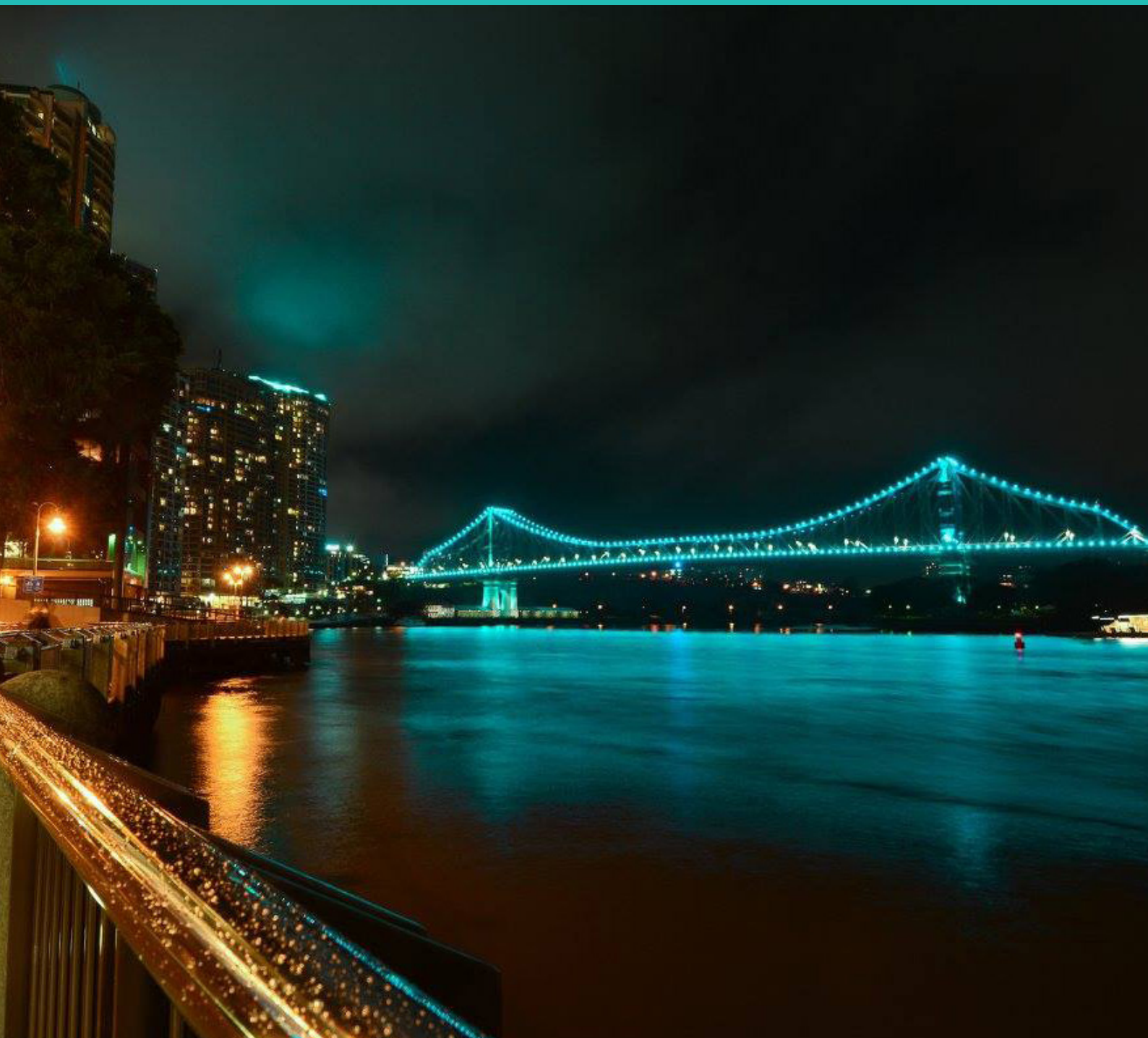


**UNDERSTAND ALZHEIMER'S  
SUPPORT AUSTRALIA**



**ALZHEIMER'S  
AUSTRALIA QLD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2016-2017**

**UNDERSTAND ALZHEIMER'S  
SUPPORT AUSTRALIA**

**Alzheimer's Australia (QLD)**

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Bridge lit up in teal for Dementia Awareness Month

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



As we now embark on the new Dementia Australia unification journey, we take this time to celebrate the achievements of so many who have contributed to this wonderful Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) organisation.

## Where we came from

It was instructive to go back to the Constitution of Alzheimer's Australia Gold Coast, which was one of the original three regions established in Queensland under the Alzheimer's Australia Federation.

It sought "the provision of support and best quality of life possible for those with Alzheimer's, their carers, families and friends". It talked about "educating and informing the general public" and "encouraging research", "provision of short and long-term accommodation and services", and "to promote the positive image of people living with dementia". **The mission is unchanged.** How we tackle it has changed. Today, we move away from the federation model into a brave new world.

## Challenges and successes

Queensland is a big state. As for many not-for-profits dependent on primarily federal funding, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) established regions which to a significant extent ran independently to best serve their communities as best they were able. From Townsville to Toowoomba, Mackay to Wide Bay and Burnett we made a difference. Gold Coast remains the largest centre, with 2 centres to the city's north and south reflecting the needs of the area. Woolloongabba provides a range of services for the Brisbane region and is the administrative centre for Alzheimer's Australia (Qld). We thank so many for so much done here.

## Activities and events

Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) has been very active in successfully running (either alone or in partnerships) a series of activities and events to promote both our message and to provide a forum for engagement and activity. These included:

- well attended Memory Walks in Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast
- Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) Ambassador Pat Welsh interviewing Olympians Cate and Bronte Campbell on their respective Rio experiences whilst hosting the Brisbane Gala Dinner at the Stamford Hotel.
- Stamford Hotel Brisbane generously supporting Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) at their Melbourne Cup Day functions
- a joint event with University of Queensland, Queensland Brain Institute and the Board of Benevolence at the Hand Heart Pocket Gala at Customs House

## Making a difference

I sincerely thank our local supporters, our staff and volunteers, our executive team and leadership team headed our previous CEO Victoria Beedle for their tireless efforts over the years to deliver the best possible outcomes for people with dementia, their families and carers across Queensland.

I thank Pat Welsh for his continued involvement as Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) Ambassador. Christine Bryden is a prolific and astute writer, speaker and advocate. Ita Buttrose is inspirational in her work in dementia awareness and action in Australia. There are so many more who all make a difference...every day!

I acknowledge the continued support from the State and Commonwealth Governments, as well as the philanthropic community. This generosity enables us to continue to deliver our mission: to boost brain health; support the search for a cure; make early diagnosis easier, and help improve the quality of life for Queenslanders living with dementia. Our funders are critical partners in ensuring our vital work can become sustainable. We are grateful for their ongoing commitment and investment.

## Finance and Clean Audit Opinion

I note the clean audit opinion provided by our auditors to the 30 June 2016 financial statements, and anticipate the same for the 30 June 2017 year. It is a great credit to Pat Walsh and his team that this result is achieved in a professional and efficient way. We continue to have access to reliable and consistent information for making decisions aligned to the Strategic Plan: Prevent, Detect, Support.

## Board leadership

Not too many years ago significant stigma attached to the term dementia. Indeed, we in Australia (as for e.g. the UK) used the term 'Alzheimer's' which was seen as less 'confronting'. The stigma about the term dementia is still there, but not to the same extent. The community awareness and dialogue about care, support, research and general engagement for those with any of the more than 100 diverse types of dementia have grown enormously. But sadly, it is now number two after heart disease as our greatest killer. There is no cure as of today.

To tackle it we need our best and brightest coming together with many skills and experiences.

Having a first-class Board of Directors is key to optimal performance, and has been the catalyst for Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) being ever more efficient and effective in achievement of its mission.

I sincerely thank our Board members past and present for their work in building the organisation to where it is now. It has been my honour to lead the Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) organisation through "interesting times" with not one but two unitary projects, a rapidly changing political and not-for-profit funding environment, substantial improvement in facilities (Rosemary House and Cedar House especially), creative strategies around better care models such as Eden and, of course, engagement with like-minded boards around this great country. I acknowledge and thank Swain Roberts for his work as a director of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and their focus on support for many streams of research.

## The New World

Our operating environment is also changing dramatically. Dementia Australia is preparing for a period of unparalleled transformation as we adapt to the structural reforms brought about by the National Disability Insurance Scheme, My Aged Care, and the principles of consumer-directed care in aged care. Responsibility for aged and dementia care is increasingly moving to the Commonwealth, with a new funding model whereby the consumer has choice over how their individualised funding is to be used.

This 'new world' of consumer-directed care is welcomed by your board of directors and the management team. However it does present significant challenges to the ways we operate. The Dementia [formerly Alzheimer's] Australia board has developed a strategy to combine all the strengths of the various S&T associations into one Australia-wide dementia specific organisation.

The entire board of directors of Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) are supportive of the strategy to ensure that we can continue to deliver the highest quality support to people with dementia, their families and carers in the brave new world before us. What won't change is the caring spirit and dedication to all people living with dementia and their families and carers. This is entrenched in the DNA of the organisation.

## William Bass

Chairman



# SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

## National Dementia Support Program

The National Dementia Support Program was delivered throughout the State during the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) excelled in delivering support, activities, counselling, early intervention programs and carer education well over and above specified contractual targets, in all key performance indicators, with final completion rates between 140% and 400% of annual targets. We received a new contract for the 2017-2018 year, and a new Work Plan was submitted, which has key performance indicator targets higher than our 2016-2017 year achievements.

Regular formal evaluations of our courses and programs during the year included:

### Early Intervention Course formal course evaluations 1 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2017

- 98.65% of respondents found the program to be 'highly useful' or 'useful'. (74 responses)

### Living with Memory Loss Course formal course evaluations 1 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2017

- 94.83% of respondents found the program to be 'highly useful' or 'useful'. (58 responses)

### Considering Residential Care formal course evaluations (group counselling course) 1 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2017

- 100% of respondents found the program to be 'highly useful' or 'useful'. (35 responses)

### Living With Change formal course evaluations (group counselling course) 1 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2017

- 100% of respondents found the program to be 'highly useful' or 'useful'. (21 responses)

### Family Carers Course formal course evaluations 1 Jan 2017 – 30 June 2017

- 98.19% of respondents found the program to be 'highly useful' or 'useful'. (111 responses)

Feedback received through the formal evaluation process included the following:

*"I was lost and alone when we got the diagnosis, and then Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) just grabbed me and it felt like they wrapped me up, I feel so supported now."* (Family Carers Course and Carer Support Group client; Brisbane 25 May 2017).

## Consistent and reliable consumer-directed support and counselling services

We have provided a dedicated (free) 1800 NDSP Program and Service telephone booking line, staffed by a full-time employee; and a dedicated Queensland Services email address for people to contact to obtain information and book a service. Our caring team members go above and beyond to ensure that the experience for clients in connecting with us via these methods is both supportive and informative:

*"Thank you for your very informative email. I feel much better after making the first connections with Alzheimer's Australia (Qld), I wish I had done that 2 years ago. It feels great to find a very welcoming voice on the other (end) of the phone when you are overwhelmed."* New client (Carer) (Scheduling Coordinator, Brisbane, 13 February 2017)

Our telephone counselling service has been extremely successful. The flexibility of the service allows us to provide assistance to more people living with dementia and their carers, no matter where they live.

*"I previously had face-to-face counselling... Both counsellors helped me get through a very difficult time. Phone counselling is very important for people like me who can't come in to face-to-face for various reasons. A big thank you."* (Face-to-face and telephone counselling client; 18 June 2017)

This year we have continued to deliver a flexible, responsive and consumer-directed support group service – running forums, opening new groups when required, changing locations, and collaborating with other organisations to offer opportunities, experiences and services to suit the diverse needs of our consumers.

## Homelessness Program

This year, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) delivered the Service Delivery Pathways Project. Funded by the Federal Government, the project aims at improving health outcomes and reducing the impact of dementia in the homeless community.

We also undertook community networking with organisations supporting homeless people during this period, conducting workshops and awareness sessions for organisations such as Micah Projects Inc, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and Footprints. One of the highlights was attendance at the Brisbane Homeless Connect event in June 2017, where we had the opportunity to connect directly with more than 300 visitors to our stand alone. Feedback received included:

*"Thank you for a very informative and detailed presentation. Not many people in the room had previous knowledge about dementia and this session will definitely help to create awareness to homeless organisations. We look forward to having you attend the homeless connect event in 2017. "*

## **Regional Dementia Services**

Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) has provided remote and regional services through Dementia Support Centres in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Toowoomba, and Gold Coast; and through vital outreach work in other regional towns throughout the State such as Sunshine Coast, Warwick, Murgon, Mareeba, Innisfail, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Ingham and Yeppoon.

During the reporting period, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) undertook some key operational regional staffing changes to ensure a sustainable, effective and high-quality professional service in our regional service centres. These changes included appointing Community Development Officers to develop our regional dementia services, including in Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Cairns and Townsville.

As a result of our extensive networking, we have experienced an increase in demand for community education, which we have endeavoured to meet by providing a face-to-face service. This is reflected in the community and carer education, information sessions and awareness-raising activities reported in our National Dementia Support Program reports. We are reaching out to a wider section of the community across Queensland, not just in the South East corner of the State.

Our Community Development Officers and Dementia Advisors have undertaken an extensive amount of networking and community awareness raising, building resources through collaborative efforts with other community organisations, and through key community group memberships.

There has been an improvement in coordination of services with other service providers, including joint planning, implementation and review of community awareness activities such as Carers Week, Seniors Week, Dementia Awareness Month and Brain Health Awareness Week.

Organisation-wide, our volunteer contingent has increased and during the reporting period our services and programs volunteers delivered nearly 5,000 work hours directly assisting people living with dementia and their families, friends and carers:

*"I feel very privileged to be able to volunteer at our Rockhampton Dementia Support Centre and the newly formed Yeppoon Carer Support Group. It is very pleasing to see our new Community Development Officer launch herself with great compassion and willingness to learn, to spread the news that we are there to help those who require help. Our word is getting out that we are there to assist when needed which is very pleasing. Thank you Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) for your support."* (Rockhampton Dementia Support Centre Volunteer; 18 May 2017)

*"(My) experience with the support group in Rockhampton was like "receiving a big warm hug". (The Community Development Officer) was lovely".* (Rockhampton Dementia Support Centre client; 22 May 2017)

On 24 February 2017, Senator Helen Polley visited our Dementia Support Centre in Townsville, and met with staff, clients (both people living with dementia and carers) and volunteers. Senator Polley was very interested in hearing about our clients' experiences of living with dementia. Senator Polley said that she appreciated being able to hear, first hand, from the clients and their carers about their challenges.

## **Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program/National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

The Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program for the period 2016-2017 has seen the rollout of three areas into the NDIS, Townsville, Mackay and Toowoomba. Key Workers have been working with eligible clients to provide pre-planning support, support during planning meetings, and assistance in implementing client plans. During this period, 36 Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program clients registered with the NDIS with 16 of those clients having an approved plan. Of those 16 clients, the Key Workers were selected to provide Support Coordination/Support Connection to six clients.

*"Thank-you so much for all your help! I don't know how I would have coped during the meeting without your support"* (Younger onset dementia client)

# EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

After committing to extending the reach of support for people living with dementia, Alzheimer's Australia, as a Registered Training Organisation, also committed to providing education and training to those involved with dementia care. Dementia Essentials training courses were facilitated by Alzheimer's Australia educators throughout the state, providing health care professionals with the knowledge and strategies required to provide the best possible care.

Course popularity during the 2016-2017 period will see more courses scheduled in high demand areas and their introduction to regional areas in the 2017-2018 period.

Our Library and resources departments allow the right information to be given to the individual and is available in our Dementia Support Centres in Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton and Toowoomba. To avoid clients becoming overwhelmed, our professional staff and volunteers welcome the opportunity to talk with clients and determine what best suits their needs.

The Alzheimer's Australia national website also provides value to our clients, with over 100 different Dementia Help Sheets available for download and various other informational material including videos, facts, toolkits and statistics.

Our education and training resources ensure our position as the trusted source of information on dementia is maintained for both the general public and health care providers. Contributing to the culture of the organisation, our programs and resources ensure that individuals maintain their wellbeing following a diagnosis of dementia.



**Above** Training in action



# FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

There are currently more than 77,000 Queenslanders living with a diagnosis of dementia, and this will rise to more than 100,000 by 2025 and more than 250,000 by 2056 without a medical breakthrough. The need for the services and programs of Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) has never been greater and will rise exponentially over the coming years. We have therefore concentrated our energies and resources on building independent and sustainable fundraising programs to help fund these programs and services into the future.

Our database of donors continued to grow during the 2016-2017 financial year and this growth is laying down the foundation for future bequest and major donor programs which have the capacity to generate even more income. Project plans to assist in raising private funds for programs such as Community Hubs, Core Funding and the Alastair Rushworth Scholarship Research Fund have been developed and will be available to assist with approaches in the coming year.

Engagement functions have been held on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, designed as information sessions for potential major donors and people with strong networks that can assist us with our fundraising and awareness campaigns in those areas.

In February 2017 our Bequest Society – The Christine Bryden Society was launched by Christine at the Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) Gala Dinner. All supporters who leave a gift in their will are invited to join the society and will be honoured for supporting the organisation in this way.

Events and community fundraising are an important part of the Alzheimer's Australia strategy. Not only do they raise funds and awareness, they allow us to connect with volunteers who assist the staff in reaching out to our clients.



**Above** Christine Bryden and Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) CEO Victoria Beedle at the launch of The Christine Bryden Society

# EVENTS AND COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) hosted a full calendar of fundraising and awareness events across the 2016-2017 year, including our signature Gala Dinner, a Dementia Awareness Month public lecture, and the growing Memory Walk & Jog series.

## Event highlights

### Dementia Awareness Month Lecture – Dr Ronald Petersen (September 2016)

Alzheimer's Australia hosted a series of public lectures as part of Dementia Awareness Month 2016. International speaker Dr Ronald Petersen visited from the United States of America where he is the Director of the Mayo Clinic. Dr Petersen is a world leader in the field of Alzheimer's disease and was also Ronald Reagan's personal physician and treated the former US President for Alzheimer's disease. Attendees of the lecture included clients, health professionals and members of the general public. Dr Petersen shared the latest insights and research findings about dementia, as well as Global and US experiences when establishing national dementia strategies.

### Queensland Brain Institute Gala Evening – Customs House (September 2016)

On World Alzheimer's Day (21 September), Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) partnered with the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) to host the annual Hand Heart Pocket Gala Evening at Customs House. Guests participated in a Q&A panel session with Professor Jurgen Gotz, Director of the Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) CEO Victoria Beedle and Ambassador Christine Bryden AM. More than \$26,000 was raised for Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) and QBI to use in the fight against dementia.



Above L to R Alzheimer's Australia National Ambassador Ita Buttrose, Alzheimer's Australia CEO Maree McCabe and Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) CEO Victoria Beedle at the Hand Heart Pocket Gala

### Brisbane Landmarks Illuminated in Teal – World Alzheimer's Day (September 2016)

Iconic Brisbane landmarks the Story Bridge and Customs House were illuminated in teal to mark World Alzheimer's Day on 21 September. Guests attending the QBI Gala were treated to unbeatable views of both. (pictured on cover)

### An Evening with Olympic Champions Cate and Bronte Campbell – Tattersall's Club (October 2016)

More than 100 Tattersall's Members, guests and families attended the event which was emceed by Pat Welsh, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) Your Brain Matters Ambassador, who conducted an interview with Bronte and Cate, as well as a Q&A segment with fans. A raffle and auction on the night helped to raise more than \$4,000.



Top and above An evening with Olympic Champions Cate and Bronte Campbell





**Above and below** Getting into the spirit of Memory Walk & Jog



### **Melbourne Cup – Stamford Plaza Brisbane (November 2016)**

Alzheimer’s Australia (Qld) was chosen to be the official charity partner of Stamford Plaza Brisbane’s Melbourne Cup events. More than 400 guests attended two separate functions within the venue, helping to raise more than \$4,000 via sweep and raffle ticket sales.

### **Gala Dinner – Stamford Plaza (February 2017)**

Alzheimer’s Australia (Qld) Your Brain Matters Ambassador Pat Welsh hosted our signature Gala event, A Night of Stars, at the Stamford Plaza on 25 February 2017. Guests were entertained by an incredible line up of inspirational speakers including Ita Buttrose AO, OBE and Cate and Bronte Campbell. A raffle, live and silent auctions helped to raise vital funds in the fight against dementia.

### **Brain Awareness Week campaign (March 2017)**

During Brain Awareness Week 2017 (13th – 19th March) we launched the #LoveYourBrain 7 day challenge. Primarily a social media campaign, the challenge asked participants to take on a different brain health challenge each day for a week. Tasks included enjoying alcohol free days, getting close to nature and learning a new skill.

### **Memory Walk & Jog (April – June 2017)**

In 2017 more than 1,900 Queenslanders laced up their joggers and took part in one of four official Alzheimer’s Australia (Qld) Memory Walk & Jog events across the state. Events were held in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast, as well as two new event locations – Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast. ‘Do it Yourself’ events attracted a whole new set of supporters to join the fight against dementia.

One Memory Walk & Jog participant noted, *“Attending the day was such an eye opener to the disparities of people and families affected by dementia. Some are young and others not so young but the common theme for the day was that everybody was having a great day out amongst friends.”*

A total of \$79,000 was raised by 1,900 participants across Queensland and 230 fundraisers state-wide.

### **Community fundraising highlights**

This year 91 new community fundraisers signed up to host their own events or fundraise for Alzheimer’s Australia (Qld) as part of a third party event. Third party events included Bridge to Brisbane, City2South and the Queensland Government’s #imovebeCAUSE campaign.

### **Natasha Read and Trent Wakerley (September 2016)**

On 24 September 2016 Natasha Read and Trent Wakerley each completed a tandem skydive from 15,000ft over the Sunshine Coast. Natasha jumped in honour of her grandmother Vivienne: *“With the theme of Dementia Awareness Month this year being ‘You Are Not Alone’, I thought it only appropriate that I do the skydive as a tandem to demonstrate that seemingly tough experiences can be easier when shared.”* Trent completed the

challenge in memory of his dad: "I remember Dad did a skydive years ago and loved it, so it seemed like a perfect memorable thing to do." Collectively, Natasha and Trent raised more than \$9,000.

### **Jamie Hunter – World’s Toughest Mudder (November 2016)**

Jamie Hunter raised more than \$4,000 for the fight against dementia while competing in the gruelling 24 hour World’s Toughest Mudder challenge in Las Vegas. His inspiration for this amazing effort was his mother-in-law Beryl, who was diagnosed with younger onset dementia at only 59 years of age.

### **Kate Hanssen and Lincoln Ford – Great Wall of China (May 2017)**

Since June 2016, Kate Hansen and her husband Lincoln Ford have been raising funds in the community for Alzheimer’s Australia (Qld) with one goal in mind - to reach the top of the Great Wall of China and raise awareness for younger onset dementia which took the life of Lincoln’s father too soon.

They raised more than \$5,800 and Kate knows how much of an impact those funds will make: "We saw first-hand how hard it was to find the support and understanding we so desperately needed to help us as a family. Alzheimer’s Australia was one of the few organisations that could provide this support and understanding.

Awareness of the specific challenges faced by someone and their family with early onset dementia is very sparse. We started fundraising so we could help Alzheimer’s Australia help other families who were, or will go through, what we were going through."

# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

## Traditional Media

Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) is the peak body and charity and the lead contact for information regarding dementia. Throughout 2016-2017, consumer stories, statistics and information continued to be in demand throughout regional and metro areas of Queensland. As a result, traditional media (including newspapers, online news sites, television news bulletins and current affairs programs as well as radio news bulletins and programs) remained an important part of our contact with the public, presenting opportunities to relay details of support and services provided by Alzheimer's Australia (Qld).

Paid advertising, along with social media, was used for a multi-channel approach for attracting patrons to four Memory Walk & Jog events across south east Queensland. Alzheimer's Australia achieved increased media interest and requests for information during the month of September due to a high rate of activity for Dementia Awareness Month. Our organisation has a consistent and favourable relationship with media through the distribution of media releases, informing the community of events, activities and information.

## Social Media

Online networking through social media presence continued to grow at impressive rates. Campaigns for Memory Walk & Jog events along with our campaign for Brain Awareness Week achieved the highest levels of engagement ever witnessed by the sites, while consumer stories also remained popular amongst our followers.

Campaigns across our four social media sites including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn, were well-received by followers, further highlighting the broad interest the organisation and the cause holds with a diverse range of audiences in Queensland, and the importance social media holds as part of our communications strategy. Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) courses, events, activities and stories continued to be shared with followers on all platforms, ensuring engagement with internal and external stakeholders was maintained.

## Dementia Awareness Month

Throughout September each year, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) encourages Australian communities to become dementia-aware. The 2016 campaign themed 'You Are Not Alone' aimed to improve education and understanding among the general public, and remind people living with dementia, their families and carers that support and services are available. Consumers and health professionals attended Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) events including a public lecture, 'International action on Dementia', featuring key note speaker Dr Ron Petersen, the Queensland Brain Institute 2016 Gala Evening, and Art and Dementia tours at Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art. The month inspired better understanding of what it is like to live with dementia, and ultimately encouraged a community where people affected by dementia are supported to live a high quality life with purpose and value.



# OUR PEOPLE

Throughout 2016-2017, a total of 124 employees contributed to the work of Alzheimer's Australia (Qld). This number includes 33 new employees who were welcomed into the team during the year. As always, our many and varied achievements throughout the year are owed to the expertise and commitment of highly skilled and qualified employees who are the heart and soul of our work and our brand.

There is nothing more important than our people; for this reason, one of the highlights of 2016-2017 was our partnership with Corporate Bodies International (CBI) – a leading provider of interactive healthy lifestyle initiatives to Australian workforces. Through our work with CBI, Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) was proud to enhance our state-wide health and wellness program by including monthly webinars on health topics and monthly fitness classes that both employees and volunteers could benefit from.

One of the 2016-2017 highlights was our annual All Staff Day, held in November at Surfers Paradise. The day presented an excellent opportunity for staff members across the state to come together and learn about the credible and inspirational work that is happening across Queensland each day to improve the lives of people living with dementia. It also presented an opportunity for all Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) staff to learn about the strategic plan for each federated state to unify and become a single national organisation in 2017.

A focal point of the All Staff Day was the second annual teamwork, respect, excellence and community (TREC) awards. These awards are based on the values of Alzheimer's Australia (Qld). These values act as a compass to guide our work and this year's deserving winner was Marie-Louise Bone, a Support Worker based on the Gold Coast who, together with clients, painted a beautiful tree inside our newly renovated respite centre, Rosemary House. In addition to being beautiful and colourful to look at, the tree also represents our commitment to creating quality of life for clients and their care partners, by producing an environment that encourages independence, companionship and spontaneity.

In second place, Barbara Cunningham, a Senior Dementia Advisor, was recognised for being 'a true team player', while Support Worker Ray Hughes came in third for his involvement with the Gold Coast Men's Shed.

Congratulations to all Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) TREC winners and nominees.



Left TREC Award winner Marie-Louise Bone

# OUR VOLUNTEERS

## An integral part of our Alzheimer's Australia family

Our volunteers come from different backgrounds, age groups and life experiences, yet share in common the willingness to give their time to help others. They have influenced the lives of more than 77,600 Queenslanders living with dementia and many more families affected. Through the invaluable help of our volunteers, we have been able to educate more people in the community about dementia and improve the quality of life of our loved ones living with dementia. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and commitment of our volunteers who have shown great compassion and respect to the people we serve. Their kindness is an inspiration to all.

Throughout 2016-2017, more than 110 volunteers across Queensland helped Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) support people impacted by dementia through providing administrative and client services support, community engagement and many more activities crucial for shaping and delivering our services. These were in addition to the many volunteers who were also involved in short-term promotional and fundraising events, enabling us to continue providing vital support and information services to people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers.

One of the highlights of 2017 for Alzheimer's Australia (Qld) and our volunteers was the Memory Walk & Jog that involved more than 200 fundraisers, 1,900 participants and raised more than \$78,000.

Much of the success of the event is owed to our hardworking volunteers who generously donated their time to assist in the lead-up to the event, and on the day itself.

During the past 12 months we have witnessed our volunteers doing some fantastic work. Keeping in mind all of their achievements and contributions, we aim to boost our volunteer services over the following years. We will explore innovative and additional volunteer opportunities to compliment our existing services and those we are planning to initiate. Our volunteers are an indispensable part of the Alzheimer's Australia family – our sincere thanks to you all.



**Below** 2016 Volunteer Christmas Party

**Right** Volunteers at Cup Day





Below Rosemary House Eden Tree

