



Alzheimer's  
Australia NT  
Living with dementia

# Annual Report

*Alzheimer's Australia NT Inc.*

**July 2008 to June 2009**

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**National Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500**



An Australian Government Initiative

***Our Vision...***

**A society committed to the prevention of dementia while valuing and supporting people living with dementia**

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***Our Mission...***

***To provide quality dementia services and leadership  
in advocacy, policy and research***

**President's Report 2008/2009**

The Association has had a successful twelve months. Funding was very tight at the beginning of the period, however successful funding applications and careful management, facilitated a balanced budget and the delivery of some innovative new education initiatives. Notably, Alzheimer's Australia NT partnered with NT Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service to produce the first dementia resource in NT Indigenous languages. The challenge now is to ensure that this resource package is adopted throughout the Northern Territory.

A combination of fundraising and successful submissions ensured that staff from Darwin and Alice Springs attended the Alzheimer's Australia National Conference in Adelaide this June. This year, the conference and an NT focus by the SA NT Dementia Training & Study Centre, have provided excellent professional development for people working with dementia in the NT.

**Dementia is the chronic disease of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and in 2010 the first baby boomers will turn 65. Raising the awareness of the general public and politicians about the need for increased effort to promote research into risk reduction and effective treatments, is vitally important.**

Dementia Awareness Week 2008 was a great success. The association built upon the achievements of Dementia Awareness Month 2007 through the kind and very professional marketing and public relations support of Claire Bell (Associated Advertising & Promotions) and Michels Warren Munday. Claire continues to support the organisation and the association is deeply grateful for her assistance.

Alzheimer's Australia NT continues to work closely with all other members of the Federation and NT Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service. The association is also pleased to be collaborating more closely with the SA NT Dementia Training & Study Centre and assisting with providing tertiary level professional development to dementia health workers in the Northern Territory.

The Alzheimer's Australia Federation is working together to develop a new website with improved capability. It is hoped that this website will not only provide information in a more friendly way to the general public, but will also assist with communication within the Federation. There is a vision that later there will be portals to allow access to an on-line shop, among other things.

Finally, I would like to thank all staff and Board members for their contribution, commitment and advice during the year.



**Ray Norman  
President  
November 2009**

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

This Annual Report will provide information to our members and other stakeholders about our activities, and will:

- Discuss activities and achievements during the year;
- outline difficulties that have arisen;
- outline future directions; and
- summarise progress.

## Activities and Achievements

Alzheimer's Australia NT developed a business plan for the 2008 – 2009 financial year with seven key objectives, which were:

- A balanced budget;
- extension of services to cover people in residential care;
- develop a culturally appropriate dementia resource for Indigenous Territorians;
- provide appropriate professional development for staff;
- improve linkages with Alice Springs;
- extend the Safe Return Program; and
- participate in research.

These objectives were largely achieved during the year, with the exception of the expansion of the Safe Return Program. While the possibility of securing sponsorship for this service looked promising initially, the world economic downturn caused companies to revisit their philanthropic programs and we were unable to secure funding.

A Social Activity and Support fee-for-service program was established in early 2009 to provide tailored services to clients in residential care. Residential care facilities do not provide extensive services of this nature and the program allows clients who have transitioned to residential care to keep in touch with the community and Association staff they may have become familiar with.

Alzheimer's Australia NT values its staff and recognises that the ability to provide quality services depends upon providing appropriate professional development. The past year has been rich with opportunity. The SA & NT Dementia Training & Study Centre has provided tertiary level dementia education in the Northern Territory and Alzheimer's Australia NT has worked with the Centre to facilitate the sessions. Three members of staff have been enrolled in the Certificate 3 in Aged Care, two of them through the Australian Traineeships scheme. Key staff and a member of the board attended the Alzheimer's Australia National Conference in Adelaide during June. This conference is an excellent networking opportunity and never fails to inspire staff and provide ideas, which are later incorporated into association programs. After the conference, the SANT Dementia Training & Study Centre sent two of the speakers, Professor Schultz and Professor Donovan, to the NT where they presented workshops.

Gail Marsh, Manager of the Alice Springs office, relocated back to Darwin in January 2009. Taria Dick, previously from NT Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service in Alice Springs, was appointed to the vacant position in early February and has been working hard to build services and support our clients in Central Australia. This effort was recognised by the Central Australian Home & Community Care liaison officer in a supportive letter. Staff from the Darwin office travel to Alice Springs regularly and the Alice Springs manager comes to Darwin twice a year. A member of the Association board lives in Alice Springs as does the NT representative to the National Consumer Advisory Committee. Two members of the NT Consumer Advisory Group also live in Alice Springs.

Alzheimer's Australia values the input of its consumers; the NT Consumer Advisory Group continues to meet regularly. The chairperson is Kathleen Short and the NT representative on the National Consumer Advisory Group is Wendy De Souza. The group considers local and national issues and provides feedback to management of the Association and the board. Alice Springs members meet with Darwin members via teleconference.

The Association is actively looking for ways to participate in research at a level suitable for its size and capacity. During the last half of 2008, Alzheimer's Australia NT participated in *The Effect of Music on Agitated Behaviours in Older People with Dementia; a Randomised Control Trial* research project conducted by Griffith University. This work investigated the effects of music upon residents and protocols for music therapy. During November 2008, staff presented information about gaps in NT dementia knowledge to Menzies School of Health. Information was also provided to third year research methods students at Charles Darwin University in January 2009.

During the 2008 – 2009 financial year the Association concentrated strongly on raising awareness about dementia issues especially during Dementia Awareness Week 2008. Michels Warren Munday supported the cause with reduced rates, focussing on media releases and advertorial content. As a result, there was a noticeable spike in people requesting information and assistance. Claire Bell (AA&P) provided marketing expertise and help by: organising the very successful Night to Remember dinner; promoting the raffle of the painting kindly donated by Jasmine Jan; and promoting Alzheimer's Australia NT Christmas cards, which were produced using artwork created by our clients. Over \$8,000 was raised through these activities, which provided welcome assistance towards achieving Association objectives during the year.

Between March and May 2009 Alzheimer's Australia NT participated in the Activate NT initiative, leading ten Memory Walks and providing dementia risk reduction sessions in both Darwin and Palmerston. Two tear drop banners were produced to promote our risk reduction message and a regular brochure distribution program was implemented.

Territory FM has continued to support dementia awareness through monthly radio spots. Topics covered over the last twelve months were: Risk reduction; the importance of early diagnosis; understanding dementia; communicating with people with dementia; life memory albums; tips for managing at Christmas; information for people who are worried about their memory; behavioural symptoms of dementia; younger onset dementia; and the value of respite.

Advocacy during the year has included distributing the "Younger Onset Dementia Summit Communiqué" and "Respite; More than a Short Break" paper to local politicians, other service providers and people who attended information and networking groups and forums.

The Alzheimer's Australia Federation has committed to a quality system to be implemented by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. In May 2008 a quality standard audit was conducted by an external reviewer, with the Association scoring well. Minor improvements are needed to comply with the Australian standard. It is anticipated that these improvements will be implemented over the next couple of months. Alzheimer's Australia NT does not intend to aim for certification at this time.

The Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing has extended the National Dementia Support Program funding until June 2010. It has also extended the Dementia Care Essentials Funding for the same period. The Dementia Community Grant is now in round two. Alzheimer's Australia NT delivers programs under all of these funding initiatives which provide the Northern Territory with dementia education (both short course and accredited training), risk reduction information, counselling, early intervention programs, a helpline and Dementia, Memory and Community Centre activities.

The Northern Territory Government provides the Association with Home and Community Care funding to provide: Family counselling; information; support; and respite services in Darwin and counselling; information; and support in Alice Springs. The triennial service review is due in December 2009.

## Difficulties

We commenced the year with funding levels that were lower than in previous years, which provided management and staff with some challenges. With concerted effort this was largely overcome. The short time frame allowed for funding submissions put additional pressure on staff also trying to ensure that we deliver excellent service. The association is lucky to have such a dedicated and supportive team.

## Support Services

Support Services maintained a steady but busy flow of service provision under core funding agreements in the past financial year, delivering services to people with dementia, their families and carers, health professionals and the general public. In addition, networks have been strengthened with other community organisations. The organisation and dementia awareness has been promoted in the wider community and services have been extended where need was identified, with funding acquired to fulfil that need.

Support Services staff has remained fairly constant in the past financial year – we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and well qualified team. A highlight for five of the eight staff was attending the bi-annual Alzheimer's Australia conference in Adelaide during June 2009. Support staff also benefited from other professional development opportunities generated by the SA & NT Dementia Training & Study Centre.



*Staff at the Alzheimer's Australia Conference*

Support Services are funded through the Australian Government's National Dementia Support Program (NDSP) and the Northern Territory Government's Home and Community Care (HACC) programs, which are primarily delivered in Darwin and Alice Springs.

The NDSP funds the following services;

- National Dementia Helpline;
- Counselling and support;
- Early intervention strategies, including the Living with Memory Loss Program;
- Specialised dementia library;
- Social, recreational and therapeutic activities through our Dementia and Memory Community Centre (DMCC); and
- Public awareness raising activities and dementia information sessions.

All targets set by the Australian Government for the National Helpline and Referral, Dementia and Memory Community Centre and Early Intervention and Counselling in the past year, have been exceeded.



Helpline calls have increased in the past year, from forty-seven in the last financial year to sixty-six during 2008-09. Two Living with Memory Loss programs were provided in Darwin during this financial year.

DMCC activities in Darwin have continued to be popular, with Memory Matters and Health and Well Being consistently attracting twelve to fourteen participants each month. The Social Group has enjoyed outings to a variety of places in the past year. Most popular was their Christmas Party, when twenty clients and family members shared a festive lunch. Recreational activities for people with dementia in this reporting period have included Movement Therapy, Sentimental Sing-along and Tai Chi.

Home and Community Care (HACC) funds the following services;

- Individual counselling and support;
- Carer support groups;
- Three Day Respite groups per week;
- Dementia Monitoring program; and
- Transport for clients.



*Members of our Social Group enjoying their Christmas Party in December 2008*

These programs provide direct client support. There are groups to encourage exercise and activity for people with dementia. There are support groups and individual advice. Counselling and respite for carers is also provided.

In the past year, Darwin statistics show that counselling hours have increased but there has been a slight decrease in respite, transport and social support services. This decrease was mainly related to one staff member's absence for an eight week period and the subsequent closure of the Exercise group for six weeks.

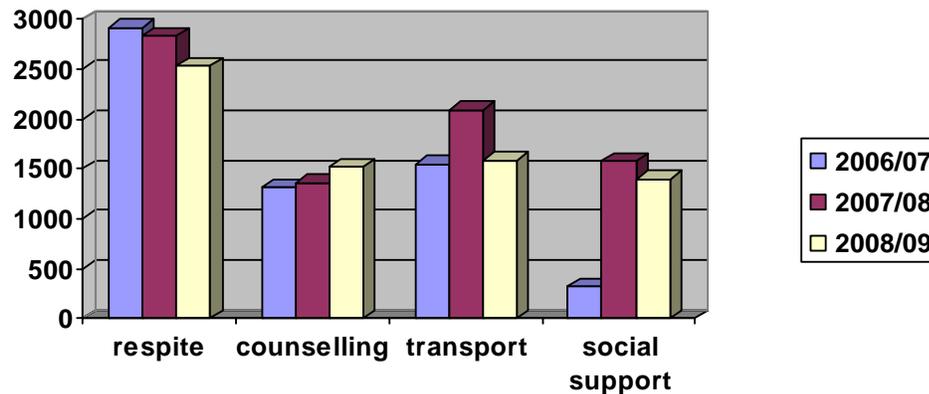


*A recent excursion to Berry Springs for our Exercise Group*



*Eric demonstrating his old skills with Morse Code*

## Darwin Statistics for HACC Contact Hours/Transport Trips



The NT Government provides useful statistics as feedback from regular Association three-month service delivery reports. From these reports covering Darwin HACC services during this past financial year the following has been noted:

- Consistently more women clients than men;
- English is the main language for 87 to 90% of clients; and
- between 10% and 13% of clients are from an ATSI background.

In Alice Springs, reports reflect the following information about their client group:

- All current clients are from English-speaking backgrounds;
- between 57 and 67% of clients with dementia have carers; and
- in this reporting period, the majority of clients have been male.

Services in Alice Springs have expanded in the past year to include more contact with Indigenous groups, more community education to other service providers and community organisations and because of a general understaffing of other aged care community services, more advocacy for our clients. We hope in the next year to develop a regular support group for people with dementia, provide more risk reduction education to people at greater risk of developing dementia and increase the public's awareness of dementia.

Areas of growth for Support Services in the past year have been in the following client target groups or areas:

- **Indigenous people**

In conjunction with Education Services, Support Services have been actively engaged in the development of a suite of new Indigenous resources to inform Indigenous people living in rural and remote areas of the NT about dementia, how to reduce the risk of developing dementia and how to care for someone with dementia.

Advocacy has been provided for several Indigenous clients living in town camps in Alice Springs and advice has been given to their service providers.

Relationships have started to develop with aged care staff and other service providers in several Indigenous communities in Central Australia, in preparation for the delivery of more formal dementia services in the near future.



*The main characters featured in our new Indigenous resources*

- **People living in regional and rural areas**

Funding acquired from the Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal, has provided a demonstration project to supply information, support and counselling to people in Katherine and surrounding areas. In consultation with the Darwin Aged Care Assessment Team and local service providers, Alzheimer's Australia NT staff visited the area four times (for three days each visit) during the twelve month period of the project.

- **The general public**

Support Services staff members have increased their usual amount of promotional activities to better inform the general public about dementia and the organisation. Articles have been written for newsletters and journals, regular radio interviews provided, promotional material and items distributed to targeted end-users and increased networking and community education opportunities has occurred.

Alzheimer's Australia NT participated in the Darwin/Palmerston community wellbeing program "Activate NT", providing two "Memory Walks" per week and two risk reduction strategies workshops during the ten week program.



*At a Darwin Memory Walk*



*One of the Risk Reduction Workshops*

- **People residing in residential care facilities**

Review of support services indicated that current Association funding does not provide services for people with mid to later stage dementia, and that residents in full time care often needed more support and social activities than was provided by their residential facility. To rectify this, a fee-for-service Social Activity and Support (SAS program) program was established. Under this program, a trained Support Services staff member provides assistance with everyday activities (bill-paying, shopping) or taking a resident for a three hour outing to a destination of their choice.

During the past year small funding grants have provided additional services for Association clients:

- During Dementia Awareness Week 2008, the second annual Tea Dance was held for clients, members and the general public in Darwin, and a Morning Tea was held in Alice Springs. Both these events attracted members of the public as well as clients and carers. These events were sponsored by a Community Benefit Grant.



*Clients enjoying a dance during Seniors Month*



*Bill and Dorothy dancing at the Tea Dance*

- In Darwin, during Seniors Month 2008, a weekly dance class for seniors was provided. These classes were very popular with both clients and senior members of the general public.
- Darwin City Council provided funding to hold art therapy sessions for a small group of clients, and the resulting artwork was used to create Christmas cards for the organisation to sell. The clients particularly enjoyed contributing to the organisation in this profitable yet creative manner.



*Client's original artworks that were used for our Christmas card project*

- Carers NT provided funding to take two family carers to the bi-annual Alzheimer's Australia NT conference in Adelaide during June 2009. Both carers reported the conference was an excellent experience, and what they learned would enhance the care they were providing to their family member.

Other unfunded existing services were continued in the past financial year:

- The Safe Return Program, which is now established in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. The number of people registered with our Safe Return data-base has increased from one hundred and ten last year to one hundred and twenty-eight this year.
- The popular Life Memory Albums program. Some specifically targeted donations in the past year have enabled the production of four albums in the past financial year.
- Three editions of the Youandi newsletter in the past year provided members with details of the organisation's activities, research articles and information about upcoming programs.

## Education Services

Alzheimer's Australia NT has provided a diverse range of education courses, information and awareness activities across the NT during the past year.

Training has been provided to aged care workers from both residential and community care sectors, health professionals, family carers, and people from Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, as well as people from the general community.

Education Services operate with a small team of experienced, enthusiastic and dedicated staff who are able to consistently meet the training needs of a wide group of people. The team consists of the Manager (Catherine Zlatnik) who is supported by a fulltime Education Officer (Ronelle Sheehan) and an Administrative Support Officer (Kim Fry). Sessional trainers also assist with delivery in specific projects.

Education Services staff members have also taken the opportunity to improve their skills by participating in a number of professional development courses. These courses including the Alzheimer's Australia Conference, various dementia related short courses provided by the SA & NT Dementia Training & Study Centre and accredited training through Flinders University and Charles Darwin University. This training has enabled staff to keep abreast of contemporary quality dementia care practices.

There have been exciting changes to the education programs that Alzheimer's Australia NT delivers in this reporting period, some projects have continued through extensions to their contracts and some new projects have commenced.

Current funding projects, both accredited and non-accredited include;

- The Dementia Care Skills for Aged Care Workers Project – Dementia Care Essentials (DCE);
- The Dementia Community Grant Program Round Two (DCG);
- The National Dementia Support Program (NDSP); and
- The NT Government Major Community Grant - Looking out for dementia - Indigenous dementia learning resource project.

## Dementia Care Essentials (DCE)



*Dementia Care Essentials Participants - Darwin*

The DCE is a three year project which commenced in 2006 and is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) with an overall budget of \$794,877. The project delivers the nationally accredited dementia unit "Provide Care Support which is responsive to the specific nature of dementia"-CHCAC15A- from the Certificate 3 in Aged Care Work Qualification across the five regions of the Northern Territory.

Over two hundred and fifty aged care workers have been trained under the project with a further eighty workers to be trained in the coming year as a result of the extension to the contract for a further twelve months. Training

has been delivered in various locations in the past year including Darwin and Katherine and in remote locations such as Tiwi Islands, Borroloola, Tennant Creek and Jabiru.

The final report submitted for the three year project in June 2009 reflected the resounding success of the program. Over 40% of participants were Indigenous with many other participants from culturally diverse backgrounds trained as well. Over 80% of participants attained their competency for the accredited unit, which demonstrates the high quality of our training, our commitment to supporting students and our ability to produce consistently excellent outcomes. Participants consistently provide positive feedback about the training, while aged care providers appreciate that good quality, flexible, dementia training can be provided to their workers at no cost.



*Dementia Care Essentials Course in Tennant Creek*



*Dementia Care Essentials Course-Darwin*

Some of the courses were delivered in partnership with Batchelor Indigenous Institute of Tertiary Education (BIITE), who organise and transport aged care staff from remote communities into one of the regional centres for the four day course. Through this partnership many workers have been trained from flexible aged care services as well as Home and Community Care workers who would normally not be able to access the training. Education Services continue to maintain strong working relationships with aged care providers across the Territory and our partner in this project, BIITE.

### **Dementia Community Grant**

The Dementia Community Grant Program Round One, was successfully completed in June 2008. This project provided "Mind your Mind" risk reduction information to over seven hundred culturally diverse members of the community across the Territory over an eighteen month period. The final report for this project is available from The Department of Health and Ageing.

The funding for Round Two became available again this year and we were successful in our application to deliver dementia information, including the "Mind your Mind" program to people at risk who are partaking in Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Programs in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs and also prisoners in Darwin and Alice Springs Correctional facilities.

Training for this project commenced in May with six information sessions delivered initially to the Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services (CAAPS), the Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcoholic Difficulties (FORWAARD), Vendale Drug and Rehabilitation Centre and Wurlu Wurlu Health Service. A minimum of four hundred and sixty people will receive this training from this wide range of services over the next twelve months.

### **National Dementia Support Program**

The National Dementia Support Program (NDSP) enables us to provide twenty-four community education sessions, four carer education courses and six short courses for health workers per year. These courses have been run in varying locations, including Alice Springs, Ti Tree Community and Katherine. The courses are delivered to a wide variety of participants including Nurses, Doctors, Personal Care Assistants from Royal Darwin Hospital and various members of the public through the Darwin City Council Libraries and through the very popular Activate NT Fitness and Wellbeing program.

The NDSP also supports displays in shopping centres, community forums and rural shows.



*Morning Tea at Burnett House on  
World Alzheimer's Day*

Displays have been provided for the NT General Practice Network Conference, for the Darwin City Councils Disability Week, the Alice Springs Show and the Katherine Plaza Shopping Centre. These events draw large numbers of people and assist in raising awareness of our services.

A morning tea was held at the historic Burnett House for culturally and linguistically diverse seniors from the Darwin community during Dementia Awareness Week. Approximately eighty members from the Chinese, Italian, Greek and Filipino communities attended this event.

### **NT Major Community Grant**

Alzheimer's Australia NT was successful acquiring funding to develop a set of culturally appropriate educational training resources called "Looking out for dementia" specifically for Indigenous people living in the NT. This tool caters for people with low literacy levels and a limited understanding of dementia.

The project commenced at the beginning of the year and was developed by an Alzheimer's Australia NT team consisting of Sue Woods (Support Services) and Catherine Zlatnik (Education Services) along with NT multi media company Unlimited Expression who produced the material.



*Sue Woods and Catherine Zlatnik with "Looking Out for Dementia" Resources*

A DVD in four languages (English, Kriol, Warlpiri and Djambarrpuynngu) was produced, along with an English language Flipchart and Poster. Local Indigenous actors were used along with images taken from various NT regions. The resources carry the messages of what is dementia, how to look after someone with dementia and how to lessen the risk of developing dementia. A cultural reference group was formed to ensure that the resources were appropriate and the Centre for Remote Health have applied for research funding through Alzheimer's Australia to evaluate the cross cultural effectiveness of the resources, especially in regards to language. If the application is successful the evaluation will take place in late 2009.

The resources were completed by August 2009 with an official launch occurring at Parliament House in September during Dementia Awareness Week. Alzheimer's Australia NT plan to distribute the resources to aged care professionals, providers and Health clinics in the NT either through the acquirement of further funds or through sale of the resource set for \$80.00.

An extensive and exciting range of education and information has been delivered by Alzheimer's Australia NT during this past year. We are consistently given positive feedback from participants who undertake our training, and we look forward to maintaining these high standards with our services in the coming year.

## **Strategic Directions and Guiding Principles**

The strategic direction of Alzheimer's Australia NT for 2009/10 remains the same, to be recognised as the key organisation in the Northern Territory and to assist people living with dementia. Our strategic direction is in line with the National strategic intent.

### **Focus**

- Advocacy and empowering consumers
- Quality dementia care
- Understanding and awareness of dementia
- Prevention, risk reduction and delayed onset of dementia
- Organisational sustainability

### **Guiding Principles**

People living with dementia, their families and carers have the right to:

- access high quality support services
- access flexible, responsive and timely support services
- be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect, to have their feelings validated and their choices and individual beliefs respected
- access services that support both the person with dementia and their families, ensuring that the needs of the person with dementia are the primary focus and priority

### **Future directions**

The first baby boomers turn sixty-five in 2010 beginning the sharp increase in the prevalence of people with dementia in Australia (expected to double to 592,000 by 2030 and then nearly double again to 1.13 million in 2050). This will make dementia the major chronic disease of the 21st Century. Dementia can affect anyone and action is needed now to deal with the demand this will place upon our health system. This should take the form of a two pronged approach which will provide a non-discriminatory; "quality dementia care system for people of all cultures and of all ages, regardless of where they live" (Dementia: Facing the Epidemic, G. Rees); and an evidence based education program aimed at reducing the prevalence of dementia by influencing people to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The challenge for the Northern Territory is unique as it is the third largest State/Territory in Australia and has only one percent of the population, one third of which is Indigenous. The Kate Smith/Leon Flicker Kimberley study showed that Indigenous people in the Kimberley have five times greater risk of developing dementia than the non Indigenous population. As the socio economic conditions are similar, this is likely to translate to the NT Indigenous population.

A cohesive approach by the Australian and Territory Governments is required with agreed funding agreements and a strong policy framework. This approach would promote quality care, improved quality of life for older Territorians and assist with attracting relevant health professionals to work in the NT.

In the period July 2009 to June 2010 Alzheimer's Australia NT plans to:

- Implement a quality management system by the end of December 2009
- Continue to promote local research
- Continue to collaborate with the SANT Dementia Training & Study Centre
- Lobby to expand HACC services in response to an identified need for a stronger aged care policy framework in the NT
- Raise community awareness during Dementia Awareness Week
- Raise community awareness during Missing Person's Week

- Continue to collaborate with NT DBMAS to provide support for people affected by behavioural dementia symptoms
- Continue increased support to Alice Springs
- Continue to look for funding for dementia services and education which will provide increased support to the whole NT community

## Summary

The 2008/2009 year has been a year of consolidation. There has been a continued focus on raising awareness about dementia and the affect it has upon people, their families and other carers.

The Association has successfully met the majority of targets that were set at the beginning of 2008. I would like to thank the staff who worked so hard to make this possible, as well as the board and Claire Bell, who provided advice and support during the year.

Alzheimer's Australia NT will continue to work towards the goals of high quality, flexible dementia care and support in the Northern Territory and ensuring that people with dementia are valued and included in society.



**Ruth Leslie-Rose**

November 2009

## Consumer's Testimonials for 2008/2009

### Counselling and Support Groups

*Alice Springs feedback:* "The small training sessions that are now part of our support groups are really good, and I feel like I can ask questions and not feel silly."

*Stepping Out client comments:*

"I really enjoy coming out with you."

"I have enjoyed the day. I am lonely at home, you are all nice ladies."

"I've had fun today."

"I really enjoy going out with the nice ladies" and another commented "You girls do a wonderful job taking us out."

*Other client comments*

"You are like a shining star for me this morning" – from a client in Pine Creek.

"I appreciate the support that has been provided during this difficult time" from a family member.

"The support group was great – it is comforting to know that others are going through the same behaviours as we are with Dad." This comment came from a new member of a Carers Support Group.

The Social Worker at Alice Springs Hospital said "You did a great job under very difficult circumstances."

### Education

Students provided the following written comments:

"I really liked the course a lot and enjoyed everything that the trainers taught and how they did it"

"They were very helpful, very friendly and were excellent trainers. Thankyou as I now understand our clients more with the behaviours they display"

"Thoroughly enjoyed all the information and learning new things about Dementia"

"I've enjoyed the course. There was far more information provided than I thought I would ever need to know. Thank you."

"Great facilitation skills provided by both the trainers"

"It is very useful for us to do this course when we are working in aged care. I hope that there will be some more training again in the future"

## Personnel at 30 June 2009

### Patron

- Dr. Valerie Asche AM

### Medical Advisor

- Dr Sadhana Mahajani

### Board (Management Committee)

- Ray Norman                      President  
*National Alzheimer's Australia Board Delegate*  
*Alzheimer's Australia Research Delegate*
- Martha Swart                      Vice President
- Jacqueline Dowling              Honorary Treasurer
- Elizabeth Furlonger              Secretary/Public officer
- Judith Buckley                      Director
- Sue Bradley                          Director
- Ruth Leslie-Rose                  Chief Executive Officer

### Staff

- Catherine Zlatnik                  Manager Education Services
- Sue Woods                          Manager Support Services NT
- Paul Perryman                      Manager Finance
- Taria Dick                          Manager Alice Springs Office
- Teresa Smithson                  Family Support Coordinator
- Jill Brown                          Early Stage Coordinator
- Kerrie Read                        Stepping Out Club Officer
- Kay Field                          Stepping Out Club Assistant
- Annette Koch                      Family Support Officer
- Alea Rose                          Family Support Assistant
- Ronelle Sheehan                  Education Officer
- Kim Fry                              Administration Education/Support
- Julie Dawkins                      Support Officer Alice Springs

## Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank our funding bodies, sponsors and supporters including:

- Australian Government - Department of Health and Ageing;
- Minister Malarndirri McCarthy;
- Northern Territory Government - Department of Health and Community Services and Community Benefit Fund;
- Pfizer - Dementia Awareness Week and Town Hall Seminar;
- Northern Territory Police - in kind support for the Safe Return Program in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine;
- Frontier Services - various partnerships support;
- Territory FM – monthly radio information broadcasts;
- Cobblers Plus - engraving of Safe Return Bracelets;
- Michels Warren Munday – generous public relations support;
- Claire Bell for her generous marketing support and assistance during Dementia Awareness Week 2008; and
- Tropical Computers for IT support.

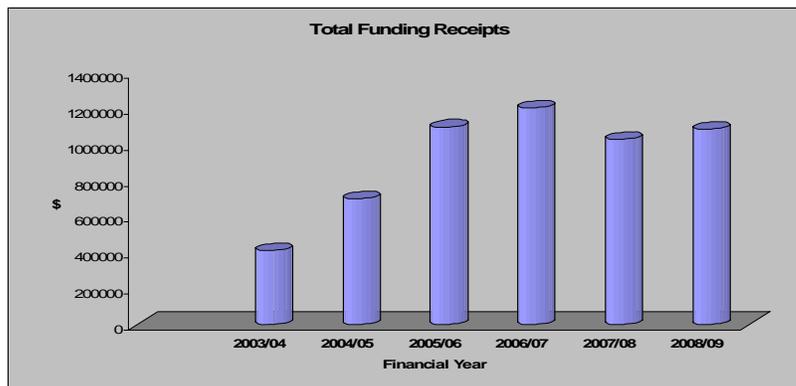
We also acknowledge and thank;

- Our Patron Dr Valerie Asche;
- Local politicians who have allowed us to use their community rooms for Stepping Out Clubs, especially Peter Styles MLA who is always willing to join clients for a chat;
- All volunteers involved in our work, especially Martha Swart. All guest speakers who have passed on their skills and knowledge during our education courses, Carers Support Groups and Living with Memory Loss Groups; as well as
- Other Alzheimer's Australia member organisations.

## Treasurer's report for the year ended 30 June 2009

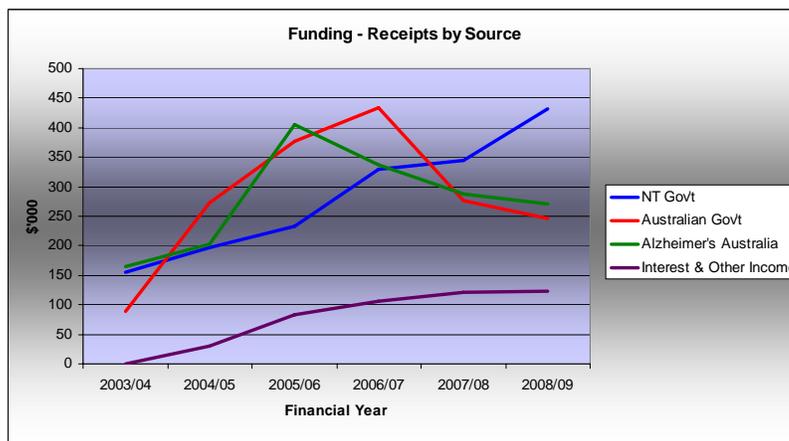
Alzheimer's Australia NT Inc entered the financial year with a challenging set of business objectives, among these to balance the budget in expectation of reduced funding as a side-effect of the global financial crisis, while maintaining and where possible expanding service delivery.

Total funding received for the 2008/2009 financial year grew modestly over the previous year largely reflecting the net effect of indexation on recurrent NT Government HACC funding, concerted funding raising efforts and success with funding applications for the Dementia Community Grant as well as various other small grants.



The higher than anticipated income, combined with planned reductions in discretionary expenditure have delivered a significantly better than budgeted net surplus for the year. While the result for this financial year is pleasing, the organization has limited capacity for further expenditure reductions outside of reductions in service delivery. Accordingly, a key business objective for Alzheimer's Australia NT Inc remains maintaining existing funding levels and attracting new funding sources over the near to medium term.

The Northern Territory Government, Alzheimer's Australia and the Australian Government remain the major sources of funding for the Association. Increased contribution from the Northern Territory Government in the reported year, specifically the one-off Community Benefit Fund grants (Other Sundry Grants), more than compensated for expected falls in current year funding from Alzheimer's Australia and Australian Government under agreements that provided the bulk of monies in prior financial years, significantly ahead of planned expenditure.





The Association's financial position remains sound, in the context of current funding levels continuing, to support planned services and activities. Additionally, with early signs of economic recovery in evidence, the Association is positioning itself to take advantage of any resulting improvement in funding opportunities.

The Chief Executive Officer, Ruth Leslie-Rose, and the Manager of Administration/Finance, Paul Perryman and their team, are again to be highly commended for their dedication to the sound financial management of the Association during this very challenging year.

**Jacqueline Dowling**

**Honorary Treasurer**

November 2009



## Appendix