

Thursday 30 July 2020

Ita Buttrose AC OBE encourages aged care sector to join free dementia webinars

Dementia Australia's National Ambassador Ita Buttrose AC OBE has invited aged care professionals to register for the Dementia Australia National Symposium Series 2020 – Dementia care is quality care.

Ms Buttrose said she will present at the final session of the online weekly webinar series, which will be held for six consecutive weeks starting Tuesday 4 August.

"I cared for my father when he was diagnosed with vascular dementia, and like many carers I considered this a privilege with many rewards," Ms Buttrose said.

"I know supporting a person living with dementia can be stressful - emotionally and physically and especially during COVID-19 when aged care teams across Australia are undoubtedly experiencing even greater challenges.

"Last year we put together an exceptional Symposium program to inspire aged care leaders, which was planned for March this year but postponed because of the impact of the pandemic.

"Undeterred, we have adapted this program into a free, webinar series, which allows us to continue to support the aged care sector in these challenging times."

In the new, re-imagined Dementia Australia National Symposium Series, attendees will hear and learn from the best of local and international speakers on dementia care, standards, leadership and cultural change.

The Symposium is the third stage of the [Dementia Australia Quality Care Initiative](#) focused on raising the quality of dementia care.

Ms Buttrose will speak on her valuable experience of leadership and organisational cultural change.

"Leading change in an organisation, a sector or even a small team is never easy – you need a vision, passion and commitment with a road map for your team," Ms Buttrose said.

"The work that aged care professionals do is vitally important in providing dignity and quality of life to people living with dementia – thank you for the difference you make every day."

The online series will feature presentations from people living with dementia, their families and carers as well as **Janet Anderson**, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner; [Prof Dawn Brooker](#), Director of the University of Worcester Association for Dementia Studies UK; [Dr Lisa Trigg](#), Assistant Director, Research, Data and Intelligence, Social Care Wales, UK; [James Adonis](#), author and leadership educator; **Prof John Pollaers OAM**, Chancellor, Swinburne University and Executive Chairman of Leef Independent Living Solutions; and **Ita Buttrose AC OBE**, Dementia Australia Ambassador and Chair ABC.

The free online series will be held weekly for six consecutive weeks beginning Tuesday 4 August. To learn more about the speakers and to register visit the Dementia Australia website [here](#).

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Dementia Australia is the national peak body and charity for people, of all ages, living with all forms of dementia, their families and carers. It provides advocacy, support services, education and information. An estimated 459,000 people have dementia in Australia. This number is projected to reach almost 1.1 million by 2058. Dementia Australia's services are supported by the Australian Government.

National Dementia Helpline 1800 100 500
Interpreter service available

(The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)

Dementia is a National Health Priority Area

www.dementia.org.au

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When talking or writing about dementia please refer to [Dementia-Friendly Language Guidelines](#).