HAZEL HAWKE: A LIFE TO CELEBRATE

Ita Buttrose, President of Alzheimer’s Australia, on the passing of Hazel Hawke: “Many Australians would have a sense of personal loss with the passing today of Hazel Hawke.

“Hazel Hawke’s life was a life to celebrate and one devoted to many causes and especially those Australians who suffered disadvantage.

“Hazel embodied a sense of fairness and concern for other Australians. She was the first and only well-known Australian to speak publicly about her life with Alzheimer’s disease.

“Her courage to speak openly about her dementia journey has left a lasting legacy in raising the profile of Alzheimer’s disease and reducing the strong sense of isolation that thousands of Australians with dementia experience.

“It took remarkable courage to make public appearances after her diagnosis in order to raise awareness of the disease and tackle stigma head on.

“Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to Hazel’s children; Sue, Stephen and Roslyn and their respective families.” Ms Buttrose said.

Glenn Rees, CEO of Alzheimer’s Australia, said that every one involved in advocating for people with dementia would have the memory of Australian Story in 2003 – The Big ‘A’ - and Hazel Hawke indelibly printed in their memories forever.

“She made a great and personal commitment to dementia research and particularly to improving the quality of dementia care through the Hazel Hawke Alzheimer’s Research and Care Fund,” Mr Rees said.

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