

**OPENING SESSION
15TH ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR
HOBART, TASMANIA**

15 MAY, 2013

**ITA BUTTROSE AO, OBE
NATIONAL PRESIDENT, ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA**

I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU THIS MORNING.

I'D LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ONCE AGAIN WHAT A WONDERFUL JOB ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA TASMANIA, AND OUR CONFERENCE MANAGERS, LEISHMAN ASSOCIATES, HAVE DONE IN BRINGING TOGETHER WHAT WILL BE THREE CHALLENGING AND THOUGHT PROVOKING DAYS.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNISE THE SUPPORT WE'VE RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND FROM ALL OUR OTHER SPONSORS. WITHOUT THEM THIS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. IT WAS THE ADVOCACY OF OUR CONSUMERS AND THE HARD WORK OF OUR ORGANISATION, THAT LED TO DEMENTIA BEING DECLARED A NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITY LAST YEAR AND LAID THE GROUND FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO A POLICY FRAMEWORK AND FUNDING TO TACKLE DEMENTIA AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DEMENTIA CARE.

AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING A COMMITMENT OF \$200 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS FOR DEMENTIA RESEARCH. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR MESSAGE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE GOT THROUGH.

THERE WAS NO RESPONSE IN THE BUDGET LAST NIGHT AND NO SEMBLANCE OF A RECOGNITION TO REFORM THE PUBLIC FUNDING OF MEDIAL RESEARCH SO THAT PRIORITIES ADDRESS THE FUTURE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE NATION.

YES WE ARE SEEKING A SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT IN DIFFICULT TIMES BUT AS I SAID AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB RECENTLY, NO GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAY RUSSIAN ROULETTE WITH PEOPLE'S MINDS; PEOPLE'S MINDS ARE SACROSANCT.

WE SHOULD BE DREADING THE COST OF INACTION.

WE NEED A GOVERNMENT WITH VISION, AS A SOCIETY WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS THE GOAL OF A DEMENTIA-FREE WORLD.

WE KNOW IF WE CAN DELAY THE ONSET OF DEMENTIA BY JUST FIVE YEARS WE WOULD BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA BY ONE THIRD. WE ALL HAVE TO DIE BUT LET'S ENSURE WE DO IT WITHOUT DEMENTIA.

WE'D LIKE TO SEE OUR GOVERNMENT FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER DAVID CAMERON WHO IS NOT ONLY CALLING FOR A GLOBAL DEMENTIA STRATEGY BUT HAS ALSO DECLARED WAR ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL RESTRAINTS USED IN AGED CARE FACILITIES TO CONTROL "AGITATED ELDERLY RESIDENTS".

PRIME MINISTER CAMERON HAS COMMITTED 30 MILLION POUNDS TO A RESEARCH PROGRAM TO STUDY OTHER METHODS OF MANAGING BEHAVIOURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS IN DEMENTIA PATIENTS.

THE MONEY WILL ALSO BE USED TO FUN RESEARCH INTO HOW TO TREAT PAINFUL DISEASE AND INJURIES IN ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS WHO CANNOT DESCRIBE THEIR SYMPTOMS TO THEIR DOCTORS.

PRIME MINISTER CAMERON SAYS "FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA ARE ROBBED OF PART OF THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THEY ARE NEEDLESSLY GIVEN ANTI-PSYCHOTICS.

"BY TAKING PEOPLE OFF THESE DRUGS WE'RE TURNING THE LIGHTS BACK ON FOR THOUSANDS SO THEY CAN LIVE A MORE MEANINGFUL LIFE."

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA HAS CONTINUALLY RAISED ITS CONCERNS ABOUT THE USE IN THIS COUNTRY OF THE USE OF ANTI-PSYCHOTIC DRUGS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS.

BRITISH RESEARCHERS WILL FOCUS ON HOW TO MANAGE DIFFICULT BEHAVIOUR OF DEMENTIA PATIENTS IN CARE HOMES AND IN THEIR OWN HOMES. SOME NURSING TEAMS REPORT THAT DEVELOPING TAILORED ACTIVITIES TO HELP CALM CARE HOME RESIDENTS CAN ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR DRUGS.

SETTING OUR DISAPPOINTMENTS ON RESEARCH TO ONE SIDE, ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA BELIEVES THE REFORMS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR ARE A STARTING POINT. THEY SET THE STAGE FOR A NEW WAY OF PROVIDING CARE – WITH GREATER CHOICE, FLEXIBILITY AND CONTROL FOR THE CONSUMER.

BUT THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE. IN OUR *FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN – ELECTION 2013* DOCUMENT WE HAVE EXPLAINED HOW THE REFORMS CAN BE BUILT UPON TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DEMENTIA CARE.

THE MESSAGE WE HAVE SENT TO FEDERAL POLITICIANS – AND ONE WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEND – IS THAT *LIVING LONGER. LIVING BETTER.* MUST BE PASSED IN THE LIFE OF THIS PARLIAMENT. I HAVE WRITTEN TO EVERY FEDERAL POLITICIAN URGING THEM TO MAKE SURE THIS HAPPENS.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE MOMENTUM IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGED CARE REFORMS IS MAINTAINED. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT AFTER 14 SEPTEMBER THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT WILL BE FACED WITH A MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS. IT CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE THE TIME TO GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD ON THE AGED CARE REFORMS.

I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LEAVE THIS CONFERENCE WITHOUT A COPY OF OUR *FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN ELECTION 2013* DOCUMENT; PLEASE WORK WITH OUR STATE AND TERRITORY ORGANISATIONS AND ALSO BADGER YOUR FEDERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT – MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THE LIVING BETTER, LIVING LONGER. REFORMS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OLDER AUSTRALIANS.

WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THOSE STANDING AT THE NEXT ELECTION ARE WELL AND TRULY AWARE OF THE COMMITMENT THAT IS NEEDED TO TACKLE DEMENTIA OVER THE LIFE OF THE NEXT PARLIAMENT.

WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ATTRACTING 48 PARLIAMENTARY CHAMPIONS TO OUR CAUSE. WE NEED TO INVOLVE MANY MORE IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT SO THAT THERE IS A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES THAT PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA OF ALL AGES AND THEIR FAMILY CARERS FACE.

WE ALSO NEED GREATER AWARENESS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES. AS PART OF OUR CAMPAIGN, WE ARE PLANNING A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DEMENTIA.

AS ALL OF YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE TODAY KNOW, WHEN IT COMES TO DEMENTIA STIGMA IS ALIVE AND WELL.

A NATIONAL POPULATION SURVEY IN 2011 FOUND THAT 44 PER CENT OF PEOPLE SURVEYED BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OR TREATED UNFAIRLY. 22 PER CENT OF THOSE SURVEYED SAID THEY WOULD FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE SPENDING TIME WITH SOMEONE WHO HAD DEMENTIA.

A STUDY LAST YEAR SHOWED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER OF THOSE SURVEYED WOULD AVOID SEEKING ASSISTANCE FOR MEMORY PROBLEMS. OF THOSE SURVEYED 60 PER CENT INDICATED THAT IF THEY RECEIVED A DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA THEY WOULD FEEL A SENSE OF SHAME, AND NEARLY HALF SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE HUMILIATED BY THE DIAGNOSIS.

IT IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE IN SHAME BECAUSE THEY HAVE A MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA. IT IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR PEOPLE TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON THOSE WITH DEMENTIA BECAUSE THEY FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

THE COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL ACTION THROUGH THE FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN SHOWS US THE WAY.

WE CANNOT EXPECT GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING. ACTIVE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY BY PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR FAMILY CARERS IS THE BEST WAY TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DEMENTIA AND ALSO TO DISPEL SOME OF THE MYTHS ABOUT DEMENTIA.

OVER THE YEARS, ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA HAS DEVELOPED MANY WAYS OF PROMOTING SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA VICTORIA HAS LED THE WAY IN DEVELOPING DEMENTIA CAFES.

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA ACT WORKED WITH THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA SOME YEARS AGO TO PROMOTE VISITS TO THE GALLERY BY PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA. THESE ARE NOW A FEATURE IN A NUMBER OF GALLERIES.

THE LIVING WITH MEMORY LOSS PROGRAMS DELIVERED BY ALZHEIMER'S ORGANISATIONS HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN MANY PEOPLES' LIVES IN FORGING NEW SOCIAL CONTACTS.

THROUGH DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK, THE ALZHEIMER'S STATE AND TERRITORY ORGANISATIONS HAVE TRIED IN A MULTITUDE OF WAYS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH LOCAL EVENTS, MEMORY WALKS, ART EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC LECTURES.

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO DO MORE.

TODAY I CALL UPON EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ACROSS AUSTRALIA TO MAKE THEIR CITIES AND TOWNS DEMENTIA FRIENDLY – TO COMBAT THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES ABOUT THE CONDITION AND TO ENSURE THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.

I AM ALSO LAUNCHING THREE REPORTS – “*DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES*”, “*COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT SYMBOL: CREATING DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY ORGANISATIONS*”, AND “*RESPIRE CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA*”. ALL HAVE THE COMMON THEME OF PROMOTING SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT FOR BOTH THE PERSON WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR FAMILY CARER.

I’M PASSIONATE ABOUT CREATING DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES – IT’S AN IDEA THAT HAS ALREADY TAKEN ROOT OVERSEAS, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND BELGIUM.

I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE BLINDLY COPY THE IDEAS OF THOSE OVERSEAS – ALTHOUGH IF THE IDEA IS A GOOD ONE, I SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT – BUT RATHER THAT WE ENCOURAGE OUR CITIES AND TOWNS TO WORK IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEMENTIA AND TO CONSIDER WAYS THEY CAN BE MORE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY. TO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVE THIS THERE NEEDS TO BE A FOCUS ON BOTH SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS.

WALKING GROUPS, CHOIRS, SCHOOL PROGRAMS, VISITS TO ART GALLERIES, WORKPLACE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS, THE USE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND IMPROVED STREET SCAPES ARE ALL BUILDING BLOCKS TO ACHIEVING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

THERE IS TO BE A WORKSHOP ON THE CONCEPT AND ITS POTENTIAL AT THIS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY. I INVITE ALL OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED TO GO ALONG AND CONTRIBUTE.

AS WELL AS DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES THERE IS THERE IS A NEED FOR DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY ORGANISATIONS.

FOR INSTANCE, ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS CENTRELINK, BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COULD BECOME DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY WITH TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR STAFF.

CENTRELINK IS VITAL TO GETTING ACCESS TO ENTITLEMENTS.

A PERSON WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT USUALLY WILL FIND IT THAT MUCH HARDER TO FIND THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND SO TOO MIGHT THE FAMILY CARER. HAVING SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS FACE CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

ORGANISATIONS WHO SIGN UP TO BE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY DISPLAY A SYMBOL TO INDICATE THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SERVICE.

OF COURSE, IT IS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT SPECIAL SERVICE AND LET BE QUITE CLEAR, ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA UNDERSTANDS THAT NOT ALL PEOPLE WILL WANT TO DO SO. THAT IS THEIR CHOICE AND WE RESPECT THAT.

THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL THEMSELVES WEARING THE SYMBOL.

THE IDEA OF A SYMBOL FIRST AROSE AT OUR NATIONAL CONSUMER SUMMIT IN 2005. CONSUMERS WANTED A SYMBOL WHICH WOULD BE USED TO PROMOTE BETTER SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.

AS OUR PUBLICATION REPORTS, BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS IN PROMOTING THE USE OF A COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IDENTIFIER THAT IS USED, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE PATIENT AND THEIR FAMILY, TO DENOTE A PERSON WITH DEMENTIA IN HOSPITAL.

IN RETURN, HOSPITAL STAFF ARE TRAINED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND DEMENTIA AND HOW TO COMMUNICATE TO PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.

THERE ARE ALSO MECHANISMS TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILY CARERS TO GET INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CARE FOR THE PATIENT.

THIS APPROACH IS NOW IN PRACTICE IN 22 HOSPITALS IN VICTORIA.

THE APPROACH GOES TO THE HEART OF A MAJOR PROBLEM IN A GREAT MANY OF OUR HOSPITALS, NAMELY RECOGNISING PATIENTS WHO HAVE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND WHO MAY BE SUBJECT TO GREAT RISK THROUGH FALLS, MALNUTRITION OR DELUSION.

A RECENT REPORT ON DEMENTIA CARE IN HOSPITALS COMMISSIONED BY ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA FROM THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND FUNDED BY THE J O AND J R WICKING TRUST, REVEALED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF DEMENTIA IN HOSPITAL RECORDS IS OFTEN POOR.

DEMENTIA WAS NOT RECORDED AS A DIAGNOSIS FOR ALMOST HALF OF THE HOSPITAL STAYS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.

THE USE OF A SYMBOL, ALONGSIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION, COULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON QUALITY OF DEMENTIA CARE IN HOSPITALS.

IT IS NOT JUST IN THE HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT THAT THE SYMBOL HAS POTENTIAL.

THERE ARE MANY SERVICE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO A GOOD SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT.

TO HELP THESE ORGANISATIONS, ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA SA WITH FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING CONSULTED WITH THE TRANSPORT, RETAIL, BANKING, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND FIRE SERVICES TO DEVELOP 12 SHORT FILMS TITLED *IS IT DEMENTIA? – A RESOURCE FOR RECOGNISING THE SIGNS OF DEMENTIA.*

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE. THE FILMS WORK WELL AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE COMMUNITY OF DEMENTIA AND THE STRATEGIES THAT STAFF PROVIDING SERVICES CAN EMPLOY TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES THEY NEED.

THIS FILMS WILL BE SHOWN THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE EXHIBITION AREA.

THE LAST ISSUE I WANT TO ADDRESS IS RESPITE. IT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE THIRD REPORT I AM LAUNCHING TODAY AND IS A RESPITE REVIEW PAPER PREPARED BY ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA THAT CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE.

IT IS AN INPUT TO THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE NATIONAL AGED CARE ALLIANCE GROUP ON HOME CARE SERVICES. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO CARERS AUSTRALIA FOR ORGANISING THE CONSULTATIONS WITH CONSUMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF THE REVIEW.

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA HAS ADVOCATED FOR THE CONCEPT OF RESPITE TO INCLUDE A RECOGNITION OF THE BENEFIT TO THE OLDER PERSON OR PERSON WITH DEMENTIA... THE REASON IS QUITE SIMPLE.

THE PERSON WITH DEMENTIA ALSO NEEDS A BREAK AND ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN LIFE LONG. IT DOES NOT HELP THE FAMILY CARER IF THE PERSON WITH DEMENTIA RETURNS HOME MORE CONFUSED AND RESENTFUL ABOUT THE TIME THEY HAVE SPENT IN RESPITE BECAUSE THEIR INTERESTS HAVE NOT BEEN MET IN ANY WAY.

RESPITE CARE WILL NOT WORK FOR FAMILY CARERS EITHER, IF IT IS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED IT.

OUR REPORT SHOWS THAT PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING RESPITE SERVICES THAT MEET THEIR NEEDS.

IN ANOTHER SURVEY OF DISABILITY AND CARERS, 48 PER CENT OF PRIMARY CARERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA REPORTED THAT THEIR MAIN UNMET NEED WAS RESPITE CARE, WHEREAS ONLY 15 PER CENT OF ALL PRIMARY CARERS SAID THAT THIS WAS THEIR MAIN UNMET NEED.

ONLY 27 PER CENT OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA APPROVED FOR RESPITE RESIDENTIAL CARE USE IT WITHIN A YEAR OF THEIR APPROVAL.

THE REASONS FOR THE UNDERUSE OF RESPITE ARE COMPLEX. IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS ARE THAT RESPITE CARE IS INFLEXIBLE, NOT AVAILABLE AT THE RIGHT TIME OR IT PROVIDES INSUFFICIENT HOURS OF CARE.

CONSUMERS FOR THEIR PART MAY BE RELUCTANT TO USE A SERVICE BECAUSE THERE IS NO PERCEIVED BENEFIT FOR THE PERSON WITH DEMENTIA.

SERVICE PROVIDERS MAY FEEL UNABLE TO PROVIDE AND APPROPRIATELY SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA. FAMILY CARERS REPORT THAT ONCE THE PERSON WITH DEMENTIA DEVELOPS THESE SYMPTOMS SERVICE PROVIDERS REFUSE TO CONTINUE PROVIDING SUPPORT.

AND SOMETIMES A CARER FEELS GUILTY AT THE VERY THOUGHT OF RESPITE CARE. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL GUILTY ABOUT THIS. RESPITE CARE IS AN IMPORTANT NECESSITY OF THE RESPITE JOURNEY.

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA HAS PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRIAL THE CASHING OUT OF THE VALUE OF RESPITE TO THE FAMILY CARER SO THE CARER CAN DECIDE HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT.

WE BELIEVE THIS MODEL COULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS TO INCREASE THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE FUNDING AVAILABLE.

WE RECOGNISE THAT THE CASHING OUT OF THE VALUE OF SERVICES IN THIS WAY IS COMPLEX AND THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER INCLUDING WHETHER BETTER QUALITY CARE WOULD RESULT, WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ABUSE, AS WELL AS WORKFORCE ISSUES.

SO OUR APPROACH IS TO PROPOSE A TRIAL THAT MAY HELP TO IDENTIFY THE ASSOCIATED BENEFITS AND COSTS.

THE ADVANTAGE OF DOING THIS NOW IS THAT IT COULD HELP PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE.

THESE ARE JUST THREE STRATEGIES THAT WE WANT TO SEE VIGOROUSLY DEBATED AND ACTED UPON OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

IT IS A MUCH BROADER AGENDA FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION THAN FOCUSING ONLY ON WHAT GOVERNMENT CAN DO THROUGH THE VALUED RESOURCES IT PROVIDES FOR CARE AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA THROUGH THE AGED CARE SYSTEM – AND NOW OF COURSE, THROUGH THE POTENTIAL OF DISABILITYCARE.

IT IS A CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US TO REFLECT ON HOW PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA LIVE THEIR LIVES...

...HOW WE CAN DEVELOP A MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA ARE WELCOMED AND INVOLVED MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

**THIS WILL REQUIRE EACH OF US TO BECOME ADVOCATES – LOUDER
ADVOCATES THAN WE ALREADY ARE – IN PROMOTING AWARENESS OF
DEMENTIA...**

**...OF THE NEED TO BECOME BETTER COMMUNICATORS IN GETTING THE
MESSAGE ACROSS THAT PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA HAVE A RIGHT TO
EXPECT ACCESS TO THE SERVICES THAT THE REST OF US IN THE
COMMUNITY ENJOY.**

**DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, DEMENTIA- FRIENDLY ORGANISATIONS
AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO GOOD RESPITE CARE, ARE INITIATIVES THAT
WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING AUSTRALIA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, TO
MAKING OUR COUNTRY A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY.**

**A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY IS ONE THAT PROVIDES THE CARE AND
MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL OF ITS CITIZENS WHATEVER THEIR LIFE
CIRCUMSTANCES ...**

**AND THAT'S THE KIND OF AUSTRALIA I WANT OUR NATION TO BE. AND I
AM SURE ALL OF YOU DO TOO.**

THANK YOU.