

September 2016

Connections

Alzheimer's Australia Tas Newsletter

New Chief Executive for Alzheimer's Tasmania



Tony Reidy was appointed by the Board as Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Australia Tasmania in April 2016.

Tony was elected to the voluntary role of National President of the Australian Council of Social Service in January 2016.

He is also an honorary Advisory Board Member of the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Study of Social Change, and an appointed University Associate.

He was chief executive of the Tasmanian Council of Social Service for five years to June 2015, prior to which he was CEO of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation for ten years.

He has held a number of senior roles in the public and private sectors, and is a former chief-of-staff to State Government ministers and a Tasmanian senator, and a ministerial policy adviser at state and federal level.

Tony has 30+ years' experience in public and private sector corporate governance, including 25+ years as a director and chairman of MyState Bank and its antecedents.

He also has a lifelong involvement in voluntary community sector governance, in diverse areas such as unemployment, skills training, early childhood education and international charities.

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NEWS

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF DEMENTIA UP AND RUNNING

One of the big events of this year's Dementia Awareness Month was the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia initiative, one of a number aimed at lifting AAT's profile and providing information on what we do.

Premier Will Hodgman launched 'Friends' at a Parliament House lunch event generously hosted by President Jim Wilkinson MLC and Speaker Elise Archer MP. At the event AAT staff also showcased the education, information, respite and advocacy work of the organisation, and there was strong interest in the services and support we provide.

A significant number of MPs and their key advisers have signed up as 'Friends' and we're now arranging for those who were unable to attend the event to also sign on.

AAT will keep this special group of key policy and decision makers well briefed on our activities and ambitions, and closely involve them in our strategic plans as we take AAT forward to meet the increasing demand for our services supporting Tasmanians living with dementia and those who care for them.

VISIT TO ST MARYS COLLEGE



Kathy Mason recently delivered a session for a class of students at St Marys College. What a delight....it was a pleasure.

The girls and their teacher Jane Whitfield were so very interested in learning about Dementia—they had fun with brain games and the girls interacted well with Kathy and each other.

Most of the girls knew someone or had heard of someone with cognitive impairment.

Jane took photos for the newsletter and she has given Kathy this one to share.

Thankyou Jane for inviting Alzheimer's Australia Tasmania to your school and class.

DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH A BIG SUCCESS

Dementia Awareness Month 2016 has been a stand-out success thanks to the great work by AAT staff, volunteers and supporters right around the state.

Tasmania's Health Minister Michael Ferguson launched DAM 2106 at AAT's Creek Road headquarters on 1 September, and then a month of events and activities followed.

The theme for DAM this year was 'You are not alone', and it was wonderful to see this message resonating with Tasmanians whose lives are impacted by dementia. The events we held – including the wonderfully supported 'Memory Walk & Jog' in Devonport, the very successful Open Day at our Newnham centre, the Minister's launch, the inspiring 'Soapbox' launch by the Hobart Lord Mayor featuring creative arts from our YOD south group, and the presentation by our national expert speaker Prof. Craig Whitehead – all combined to so effectively spread the word on AAT and the help that is available for people living with dementia in our state.

Dementia Awareness Month and its activities resulted in excellent public media coverage around Tasmania, including television news, radio news, live radio interviews and newspaper articles and opinion pieces – the feedback has been excellent from so many people who noticed.

SOAPBOX BILLBOARD PROJECT LAUNCHED



The *Soapbox* Billboard project was launched 5 September by Hobart Lord Mayor Alderman Sue Hickey, coinciding with Dementia Awareness Month. *Soapbox* is a collaborative public art exhibition between AAT and the Hobart City Council, involving 3 large billboards within Mather's Place in the Hobart CBD. This was a unique opportunity to showcase artworks produced by AAT art workshops participants, and attracted generous funding from City of Hobart who met all printing and installation costs for the billboards.

AAT Artists-in-residence Michele Wilkie and Steven Carson presented a series of collage workshops for the YOD group, who explored the direct process of gluing or stapling various shapes of coloured paper to produce their artworks. The billboards present 15 images by 12 AAT Artists, whose works were scanned, enlarged and fitted to billboards measuring up to 7 metres in width. The bright colourful imagery can be viewed 24 hours a day, and will be exhibited until November.

The launch event was attended by family and friends of AAT's YOD artists, the Old Vicarage Respite Centre, and the Cygnet group who enjoyed morning tea, music by Black Coffee featuring singer Kalo Lowe, dancing and of course the exciting artworks on show.

Clinical guidelines have been shown to improve health outcomes and care, and that is what we are expecting these guidelines to deliver for people living with dementia and their carers.

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FUNDING FOR OUR VITAL WORK

AAT would not be able to do the work it does without the support of our major funders, and we gratefully acknowledge the funding we receive from the Commonwealth and State Governments as our major sources of support.

In recent months we have received word of a two year extension of Commonwealth funding through the Alzheimer's national organisation for the innovative 'Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program', and the Federal Minister very recently advised Alzheimer's Australia that it would fund the leading-edge education and training work carried out in the States and Territories under the consortium 'National Dementia Training Program'.

AAT is in a period of transition towards 'consumer-directed care', which will see funding move directly to consumers who will make their own decisions on services and service providers.

BOOK REVIEW

Voices of Dementia Carers

Many books have been written to tell the stories of people living with Dementia, this one is especially for carers. The format is based on questions to the carers and then answers about their ideas and feelings. It is also a book for friends of carers to help them understand what it means to be a carer and how much the carer needs their friendship, understanding and support. The book is less than 100 pages and written in an easy style - a delight to read.

**If undelivered return to
Alzheimer's Australia Tas
85 Creek Road
HOBART TAS 7008**

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