

**WELCOME ADDRESS  
15<sup>TH</sup> ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR  
HOBART, TASMANIA**

**14 MAY, 2013**

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

**I'M REALLY PLEASED TO BE HERE AND TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA'S 15<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE, IN THIS DELIGHTFUL CITY OF HOBART.**

**I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS WORKED HARD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS TO MAKE THIS CONFERENCE HAPPEN, PARTICULARLY ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA TASMANIA AND THEIR CEO DEBBIE SLATER AND ALSO OUR CONFERENCE MANAGERS AT LEISHMAN ASSOCIATES.**

**AND MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU TOO FOR MAKING THE COMMITMENT TO BE HERE. SOME OF YOU HAVE TRAVELLED LONG DISTANCES, BUT I AM CERTAIN IT WILL BE WORTH YOUR WHILE.**

**I HOPE THAT THE NEXT THREE DAYS WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO REFLECT ON YOUR EXPERIENCES OF LIVING WITH DEMENTIA, STRETCH YOUR THINKING ABOUT THE DISEASE AND GENERATE IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN BEST CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA NOW WHILE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.**

**I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ONLY TWO YEARS SINCE I ADDRESSED MY FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BRISBANE, JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER BECOMING NATIONAL PRESIDENT.**

**IT SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO. WHAT A WHIRLWIND COUPLE OF YEARS IT HAS BEEN.**

**I KNEW A FAIR BIT ABOUT THE DEMENTIA JOURNEY HAVING BEEN MY FATHER'S PRINCIPAL CARER WHEN HE BATTLED VASCULAR DEMENTIA BUT THE JOURNEY I'VE BEEN ON SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARY.**

**I'VE MET PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE FROM ALL PARTS OF AUSTRALIA. I'VE MET UNFORGETTABLE PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND BEEN TOUCHED TO THE HEART BY THEIR BRAVERY AND THE STORIES THEY HAVE SHARED WITH US.**

**AND I'VE MET CARERS FOR WHOM MY ADMIRATION KNOWS NO BOUNDS...WHAT INCREDIBLE MEN AND WOMEN THEY ARE...AND HOW WELL I REMEMBER THE CARER IN SYDNEY WHO SPOKE ABOUT THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CARING FOR HIS WIFE WHO HAS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE...AS HE FINISHED HIS STORY, HE LOOKED AT US AND SAID: "IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO HELP A PERSON LIVE THEIR LIFE."**

**I'M SURE HE SPOKE FOR ALL CARERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA THAT DAY.**

**IT WAS AT THE BRISBANE NATIONAL CONFERENCE THAT THE MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND AGEING, MARK BUTLER, ENCOURAGED US TO TELL OUR PERSONAL STORIES. HE TOLD US THAT THE STORIES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA WERE NOT HEARD OFTEN ENOUGH. I THINK WE CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.**

**THE FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER 2011 WITH A MARCH OF 500 PEOPLE – PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA, CARERS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS – ON THE LAWNS OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA. IT WAS INSPIRATIONAL. SO MANY OF THOSE MARCHING SAID, “IT IS JUST SO WONDERFUL THAT WE ARE DOING SOMETHING.”**

**NOT LONG AFTER, WE UNDERTOOK NATIONWIDE CONSULTATIONS ON THE AGED CARE REFORMS AND HEARD THE STORIES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE WERE PLEASED TO REPORT THESE BACK TO GOVERNMENT WHERE THEY DID RESONATE.**

**MINISTER BUTLER TOLD ME A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO THAT HE BELIEVED EVERY POLITICIAN IN THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT WAS NOW AWARE OF DEMENTIA AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE THAT IT REPRESENTS.**

**OF COURSE THERE WERE SOME WONDERFUL STORIES OF GOOD CARE. BUT THE OVERWHELMING MESSAGE WAS THAT THE AGED CARE SYSTEM WAS BADLY FAILING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.**

**MOST RECENTLY, PEOPLE UNDER 65, LIVING WITH DEMENTIA HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AT OUR YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA SUMMIT IN MELBOURNE.**

**ONCE AGAIN, MOVING STORIES WERE SHARED ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE WITH DEMENTIA AND THE SPECIAL ISSUES THAT YOUNGER PEOPLE FACE, INCLUDING THE IMPACT A DIAGNOSIS HAS ON CHILDREN AND THE FINANCIAL BURDEN CAUSED BY LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT.**

**WE HAVE DOCUMENTED THE HOPES AND PRIORITIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN A REPORT: *“YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA: A NEW HORIZON?”***

**PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR FIGHT  
DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN AND THE REASON WHY IT HAS BEEN SO  
SUCCESSFUL IN COMMUNICATING THE IMPACT DEMENTIA IS HAVING ON  
SO MANY AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES.**

**AND I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE GIVEN NEW  
MEANING TO THE WORD "FIGHT".**

**THE STORIES FROM THE YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA SUMMIT REACHED  
AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 3.7 MILLION PEOPLE.**

**OUR MARCH ON PARLIAMENT HOUSE REACHED AN AUDIENCE OF 7.6  
MILLION...MY FIRST EVER PROTEST MARCH. I ENJOYED IT IMMENSELY.**

**THE RELEASE OF OUR AGED CARE CONSULTATION REPORT BROKE ALL  
OUR MEDIA RECORDS REACHING AN AUDIENCE OF 16 MILLION.**

**AND IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS CHANNEL 9, CHANNEL 10 AND THE ABC HAVE RUN FEATURE STORIES ON THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THE MAJOR TABLOIDS AND RADIO STATIONS ARE ALSO REPORTING AND RUNNING STORIES ON DEMENTIA.**

**AND THAT'S JUST TRADITIONAL MEDIA. SOCIAL MEDIA HAS ENABLED PEOPLE TO COMMUNICATE THEIR STORIES IN A WAY THAT WE HAVE NEVER DONE BEFORE.**

**IN THE LEAD UP TO VALENTINE'S DAY LAST YEAR, PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS BOMBARDED OUR POLITICAL LEADERS WITH CARDS ASKING: 'WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR LOVED ONE COULDN'T REMEMBER YOU?' WE REACHED ALMOST 90,000 PEOPLE ON TWITTER AND 300,000 ON FACEBOOK.**

**DEMENTIA CHAMPIONS ALSO RECEIVED AN INSTANT RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE FEDERAL OPPOSITION, TONY ABBOTT, WHEN HE TWEETED HIS THANKS.**

**WHEN I CARED FOR MY FATHER, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF INSTANTLY SHARING OUR THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON.**

**NOW THAT WE DO, I AM CERTAINLY MAKING THE MOST OF IT. I HAVE A TWITTER ACCOUNT AND HOPE THAT ALL THE TWEETERS IN THE AUDIENCE WILL JOIN ME TO CREATE AN ONLINE CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE BY USING THE HASHTAG #ALZAUS2013.**

**OUR FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN IN THE MEDIA SPOT LIGHT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AND WE NOW HAVE 48 FEDERAL POLITICIANS WHO HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT AS DEMENTIA CHAMPIONS. WE ALSO HAVE THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AND A SOCIAL NETWORK OF MORE THAN 20,000 SUPPORTERS.**

**I THINK OUR SUCCESS HAS BEEN HELPED BY OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION POLITICIANS OFTEN ASK WHEN THEY START TO BECOME INTERESTED IN AN ISSUE: WHAT DO YOU WANT?**



**IN PHASE ONE OF THE CAMPAIGN WE ASKED FOR A \$500 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS TO IMPROVE DEMENTIA AWARENESS, EARLY DIAGNOSIS, CARE AND SUPPORT, RISK REDUCTION AND FOR INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH.**

**WE DID HAVE CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS.**

**LAST YEAR, PRIME MINISTER GILLARD, AND MINISTER BUTLER COMMITTED TO TACKLING DEMENTIA WITH A \$270 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS PACKAGE THROUGH THE *LIVING LONGER. LIVING BETTER.* AGED CARE REFORMS. THIS COMMITMENT REFLECTS A NEW DETERMINATION TO TACKLE DEMENTIA, BOTH AS A HEALTH AND AGED CARE ISSUE.**

**IT INCLUDES ACTION ON TIMELY DIAGNOSIS, MAKING HOSPITALS SAFER, DEMENTIA RISK REDUCTION, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE QUALITY DEMENTIA CARE AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SUPPORT FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA.**

**HOWEVER WE DID NOT SECURE THE \$200 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS WE BELIEVE IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEMENTIA RESEARCH AND ANXIOUSLY AWAIT NEWS OF THIS EVENING'S BUDGET.**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF *LIVING LONGER. LIVING BETTER.* WILL GET US TO FIRST BASE IN AGED CARE REFORM AND TACKLING DEMENTIA.**

**THE IMPERATIVE IS TO BUILD ON THAT PLATFORM. OUR *FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN – ELECTION 2013* SETS OUT HOW THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THE PRIORITIES ARE TO:**

- INCREASE THE GROWTH OF COMMUNITY CARE HIGH CARE PACKAGES FOR PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE WOULD BE FORCED INTO RESIDENTIAL CARE**
- EXPAND ACCESS TO FLEXIBLE DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY RESPITE CARE**
- IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL DEMENTIA CARE**
- SECURE THE AGREEMENT OF HEALTH MINISTERS TO A NEW NATIONAL ACTION FRAMEWORK ON DEMENTIA**
- AND TO INVEST \$200 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS IN DEMENTIA RESEARCH...BUT OF COURSE, THAT WILL DEPEND ON THIS EVENING'S BUDGET.**

**I SAID AT THE OUTSET OF THE FIGHT DEMENTIA CAMPAIGN THAT I HAVE TAKEN OFF THE VELVET GLOVE AND PUT ON THE IRON FIST...IT IS STILL THERE BECAUSE THERE IS NO REASON TO RELAX.**

**TONIGHT I WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT, WHAT I THINK HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS EFFORT, ON THE PART OF ALL OF US OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, TO GET DEMENTIA ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA.**

**WE HAVE DONE IT TOGETHER AND WE MUST REMAIN UNITED AND POSITIVE.**

**WE HAVE BEEN HELPED BY BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FROM BOTH SIDES OF POLITICS FOR ACTION ON DEMENTIA AND I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THIS SUPPORT.**

**TOMORROW MORNING I WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE AND THE STRATEGIES WHICH I THINK WILL BE CRUCIAL IN REDUCING THE STIGMA AND SOCIAL ISOLATION THAT RESULTS FROM A DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA.**

**THEY ARE BOTH SIGNIFICANT GOALS THAT ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA IS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE.**

**THANK YOU.**

**NOW I WANT TO WELCOME PROFESSOR HENRY BRODATY – WHO I'M SURE IS WELL KNOWN TO YOU ALL.**

**HENRY IS SCIENTIA PROFESSOR OF AGEING AND MENTAL HEALTH, MONTEFIORE CHAIR OF HEALTHY BRAIN AGEING, DIRECTOR OF THE DEMENTIA COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR HEALTH BRAIN AGEING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

**HE IS HEAD OF THE MEMORY DISORDERS CLINIC AT PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL IN SYDNEY AND PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOGERIATRIC ASSOCIATION**

**HENRY IS ALSO PAST PRESIDENT OF ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA AND OF ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA NSW.**

**TO GIVE THIS EVENING'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE PHYSICAL COMORBIDITIES IN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA. PLEASE WELCOME PROFESSOR HENRY BRODATY.**

**AND NOW FOR A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – ONE THAT I HAVE BEEN  
LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING.**

**TONIGHT IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT PROFESSOR HENRY  
BRODATY WITH THE LIFETIME ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA AWARD.**

**HENRY HAS DEDICATED A LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP, CLINICAL  
EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR  
PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA.**

**HE HAS ACHIEVED MANY KEY LANDMARKS IN HIS CAREER AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. IN 1984 HENRY JOINED THE SCIENTIFIC AND  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE INTERNATIONAL (ADI).  
HE HAS SINCE CONTINUED TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AS CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY LIFETIME VICE  
PRESIDENT OF ADI.**

**IN 1993 HE JOINED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THEN FROM 2011-2013  
WENT ON TO BE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
PSYCHOGERIATRIC ASSOCIATION. HENRY WAS ALSO A FOUNDING  
COUNCIL MEMBER IN 2001 AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER IN 2009 OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF GERIATRIC PSYCHO-  
NEUROPHARMACOLOGY.**

**IN AUSTRALIA, HENRY WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRY NSW BRANCH FROM 1982-1984; DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO THE FOUNDING MEMBER AND INAUGURAL PRESIDENT OF ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA NSW AND FROM 1988-1991 HE BECAME NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA; HENRY IS NOW THE CHAIR OF THE ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA DEMENTIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION.**

**HE HAS ALSO WON A MULTITUDE OF AWARDS, THE MOST RECENT BEING THE UNIVERSITY OF NSW DEAN OF MEDICINE'S AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST AWARD MADE BY THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY.**

**THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY ACHIEVEMENTS HENRY HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS CARE... I'D ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HENRY ON A PERSONAL LEVEL – HE IS A VERY SPECIAL HUMAN BEING AND I FEEL SO HONOURED TO KNOW HIM. HE HAS AN UNWAVERING WILL TO CONTINUALLY HELP AND PUT OTHER PEOPLE FIRST.**

**HENRY'S PASSION, HARD WORK AND GENEROSITY HAS BEEN AND REMAINS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE STRONG ORGANISATION THAT ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA HAS BECOME TODAY – ONE WHICH HAS CREDIBILITY WITHIN AUSTRALIA AND INTERNATIONALLY.**

**PLEASE JOIN WITH ME IN CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR HENRY BRODATY ON HIS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS.**

**NOW HENRY I AM TOLD BY YOUR WIFE THAT YOU ARE A MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING WITH ONE EXCEPTION – YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH OF GOOD RED WINE. SO BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME THERE SHOULD BE SIX BOTTLES OF FINE RED WINE ON YOUR DOORSTEP.**

**IT IS NOW MY GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME ANOTHER OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AND TO PRESENT ANOTHER AWARD. THIS ONE A \$150,000 RESEARCH GRANT MADE JOINTLY BY THE ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA DEMENTIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND RESTHAVEN INC.**

**LET ME START BY SAYING A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR VERY GOOD FRIENDS AT RESTHAVEN. RESTHAVEN IS A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AGED CARE PROVIDER ESTABLISHED IN 1935, AND AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.**

**THEY PROVIDE A VERY BROAD RANGE OF AGED CARE SERVICES TO SOUTH AUSTRALIANS INCLUDING RETIREMENT LIVING, COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES, RESPITE CARE, AND A RANGE OF SPECIALISED SERVICES INCLUDING PALLIATIVE CARE, REHABILITATION SERVICES AND SERVICES FOR VETERANS, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER GROUPS, AND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES.**

**WHAT A WONDERFUL THING TO HAVE TRULY COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM ONE ORGANISATION.**

**RESTHAVEN'S PURPOSE, IN THE WORDS OF THEIR CEO RICHARD HEARN, IS 'TO MAKE A REAL AND TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OLDER PEOPLE.'**

**ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA HAS A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP WITH RESTHAVEN, BOTH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WHERE THEY'RE BASED, AND AT A NATIONAL LEVEL. THIS PARTNERSHIP IS BASED ON RESTHAVEN'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY PERSON-CENTRED CARE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WITH DEMENTIA.**



THEY ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF DEMENTIA CARE THROUGH RESEARCH, WHICH BRINGS US TO THE AWARD I AM ANNOUNCING THIS EVENING.

THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF RESTHAVEN, THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AWARDS THE ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA DEMENTIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION HAS EVER ANNOUNCED, AND IT IS FOR A PROJECT ADDRESSING A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TOPIC – PAIN MANAGEMENT IN ADVANCED DEMENTIA.

TO RECEIVE THE RESTHAVEN DEMENTIA RESEARCH AWARD FOR THE PROJECT: *ANALGESIC LOAD, PAIN AND DAYTIME SEDATION IN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA IN AGED CARE FACILITIES* PLEASE WELCOME ASSOCIATION PROFESSOR SIMON BELL.

SIMON IS A PHARMACIST AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, QUALITY USE OF MEDICINES AND PHARMACY RESEARCH CENTRE, SANSOM HEALTH INSTITUTE, SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. HE IS ALSO ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF GERIATRIC PHARMACOTHERAPY, FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND. HE WILL SOON TAKE UP A NEW POSITION AT MONASH UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE.