



**Alzheimer's  
Australia**  
Living with dementia



## **No time to lose in fight against dementia**

**Media Release  
9 September 2004**

National Dementia Awareness Week, an initiative of Alzheimer's Australia, will take place on September 19 – 25, with the main aim of the campaign to reinforce that there is **'no time to lose'** in making dementia an Australian health priority and raising community awareness about the impacts of dementia.

During the week, Alzheimer's Australia encourages all Australians who have noticed changes in their own memory, thinking or behaviour – of those of a loved one - to talk to their GP or to Alzheimer's Australia.

Australia is facing a dementia epidemic. Currently 170,000 Australians have a diagnosis of dementia, with that number expected to reach 500, 000 by 2041. Nearly one million Australians already provide care for a person with dementia.

Alzheimer's Australia national executive director Glenn Rees, "The immediate focus of Dementia Awareness Week is to make people aware that positive solutions are available now to reduce the human and economic impact of dementia.

"Dementia is a devastating condition but an early diagnosis could bring benefits through providing the opportunity to plan finances and future care as well as access to support networks and medications.

"Dementia is a medical condition and science will eventually find some answers if there is the investment in research," Mr Rees said.

"The challenge for the next Australian Government is to adopt a national strategy that covers public awareness, research, diagnosis and early intervention and best practice management."

In New South Wales over 57,000 people have dementia and according to Alzheimer's Australia NSW chief executive Lewis Kaplan there are around 6000 new cases of dementia in the state each year.

For further information or referral on dementia please call Dementia Helpline on 1800 639 331 or visit [www.alzheimers.org.au](http://www.alzheimers.org.au).



## Free events - National Dementia Awareness Week

South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS) Aged Care & Rehabilitation Services are running FREE community events during National Dementia Awareness Week as follows:

### Memory Expos - Learn how to keep your mind active

Speakers from the SWSAHS Aged Care Assessment team will talk about diagnosis and assessment of dementia & The Guardianship Tribunal will present information on guardianship issues such as power of attorney.

The events are FREE and will run from 10.00am – 2.00pm at the following venues. Lunch will be provided.

- 20 September 2004 - Liverpool City Bowling Club  
Cnr College and Moore streets, Liverpool
- 21 September 2004 - Bankstown Sports Club  
Cnr Greenfield Parade and Moona Street, Bankstown
- 23 September 2004 - Fairfield RSL  
14 Anzac Avenue, Fairfield

### Dementia Awareness Week Display

- 22 September 2004 – Main entrance, Liverpool Hospital  
Elizabeth Street, Liverpool

### Memory & Ageing Seminar

As part of Dementia Awareness Week, the Alzheimer's Association will also be hosting a Memory & Ageing Seminar.

- 9.30am – 12 noon, 24 September  
Liverpool Catholic Club

Guest speaker and dementia educator Anne Sammut will explain:

What is memory? What actually happens when we remember something? What can I do to help me remember better? How does memory change with ageing? Everyone loses their keys – when should I be worried about my memory? What can I do to find out more?

The FREE event is suitable for ALL that are concerned about their memory and want to know more.

Registration for all the above events is essential.

### For further information please contact:

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