



Chairs Report, 2020 Annual Report

It is with great pleasure I report on another successful year with DAI, in spite of the significant challenges we all faced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. I'd like to thank the current board members for their support, friendship and hard work in 2020, and look forward to working with them in 2021 and beyond.

The year 2020 was one like no other in our shared history, and the COVID-19 pandemic almost stopped the world from spinning! Like all other organisations, we increased our services and support to members, and although DAI are early adopters of it and had been using zoom since 2013, were pleased it was a skill already embedded for most of our members. That the rest of the world has had to catch up with working in the virtual space, has been in some ways, of benefit to people with dementia, as it has made the world more inclusive.

I'd also like to thank all members who volunteer in any way to support the work we do for the direct and indirect benefit of our members, especially our peer-to-peer support group co-hosts and Cheryl Day who manages all of our support group and brain health master files and scheduled emails, members of our subcommittees. On behalf of everyone at DAI, I also thank our fabulous volunteers, Sarah Yeates, our Board Secretary, Tamara Claunch, our Finance Officer and a co-host of the brain health meetings, and Peter Watt who provides our graphics and logos, as well as formatting all of our documents and publications. It is also through him we have two printing companies who provide pro bono printed materials such as banners or brochures, if needed.

Board member James McKillop from Scotland celebrated 20 years of advocacy. DAI is honoured to have him on our board, and as an active member including as a co-host of the UK peer to peer support group. Congratulations James. Congratulations also to Graeme Atkins, the recipient of the prestigious Richard Taylor Advocates Award in 2020.

Finally, I wish to thank Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and Dementia Australia (DA) for continuing to partner with us, and for the funding provided as part of these strategic partnerships. DAI is the voice of people with dementia, DAI is the for people with dementia, and DA is the national peak body in Australia advocate for people with dementia and their care partners. We are delighted to work with them, and that they are willing to work with us and support our work in this way.

Stay safe and well,

Kate Swaffer
Chair, CEO & Co founder
Dementia Alliance International