



Dementia Alliance  
International

# Annual Report 2023

Prepared By:

**Annika Alvarez**

Member/Events Support Officer

June 24th 2024



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# CHAIR'S REPORT



**Alister Robertson**  
Chair of the Board

February 2023, DAI virtually celebrated its 9 year anniversary with members and care partners, hosted by Alumni board member Christine Thelker and co-founder and board member Kate Swaffer.

Entertainment was provided by Graeme Atkinson , our very own resident Recreation Officer who produced a song especially for this event featuring our eight co-founders.

At the start of the year the board comprised the following DAI members: Alister Robertson (Chair), William (Bill) Yeates (Vice Chair), Janine Whited and Kate Swaffer. The Non-DAI members comprised Trish Bowen (Treasurer), Gary Johnson and Jacqueline Wong.

Kate and Bill retired from the board at the AGM held in June, Hom Shrestha , from Canada was elected onto the board.

It was great to have Kate come back onto the board and help with the transition of the new board comprising three non-DAI members. Kate's knowledge of the history and understanding of the mission and values that have been adopted has been invaluable and provided essential context as we navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead.

# CHAIR'S REPORT

I would also like to thank Bill for his contribution to the board and continuing on the board during the transition period and maintaining the role as Vice Chair.

Later in the year (September) co-founder, John Sandblom agreed to rejoin the board for an interim period and new DAI member Joanne Knapp-Filo were both appointed to the board.

Also in September, celebrating World Alzheimer's month, we announced the recipient of the Richard Taylor Memorial Advocates Award, which was made to Eileen Taylor from Brisbane, Australia. Eileen has been an active member for almost as long as DAI has been in existence and a long time co-host of one of our peer-to-peer support groups.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the valuable work that Ellen Skadzien, our Strategic Advisor provided in the short time she was with us. Before Ellen left in March she helped in the very successful recruitment of Annika Alvarez into a new established role as our Member and Events Officer.

During the latter part of the year, the board appointed Theresa Flavin, DAI member from Australia as our Human Relations Advisor. We are fortunate to have Kate Swaffer help Theresa transition into this role.

There have been challenges throughout the year with our new website not functioning as we had hoped. This has required both fixes and new development to achieve this.

# CHAIR'S REPORT

Through the good work Annika does via social media we have been getting a steady number of new members.

In closing I would 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. A special thank you for all the work that Annika does for our members, the board and the organisation.

Finally, we would not be able to continue to operate without the generous donations we receive from both members and non-members, the strategic partnership and funding from Dementia Australia and the grants received from Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and Taiwan Alzheimer's Disease Association (TADA) – thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ARL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Alister Robertson**

Chair of the Board

**DEMENTIA ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AND ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT**  
**YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**Durio & Korpai, P.C.**  
*Certified Public Accountants*

**DEMENTIA ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL**

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**ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT**

Board of Directors  
Dementia Alliance International

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of Dementia Alliance International (a non-profit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities and functional expenses for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. We do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on these financial statements.

Management has elected to omit the statements of cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and substantially all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the omitted statements and disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the organization's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent in regards to Dementia Alliance International.

*Durio & Korpel, P.C.*

February 25, 2024

# DEMENTIA ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 174,983	\$ 171,241
Accounts receivable	<u>50,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 224,983</u>	<u>\$ 196,241</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 500	\$ 3,597
Total Liabilities	<u>500</u>	<u>3,597</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	<u>224,483</u>	<u>192,644</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>224,483</u>	<u>192,644</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 224,983</u>	<u>\$ 196,241</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report

**DEMENTIA ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Without</b>	<b>Without</b>
	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Donor</b>
	<b><u>Restrictions</u></b>	<b><u>Restrictions</u></b>
<b>REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Contributions and grants	\$ 88,460	\$ 44,910
Total Revenues & Support	<u>88,460</u>	<u>44,910</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services:		
Peer-to-Peer Support Groups	<u>47,166</u>	<u>29,702</u>
Supporting Services:		
Management and general	9,455	6,354
Fund raising	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>9,455</u>	<u>6,354</u>
Total Expenses	<u>56,621</u>	<u>36,056</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	31,839	8,854
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINING OF YEAR</b>	<u>192,644</u>	<u>183,790</u>
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 224,483</u>	<u>\$ 192,644</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report

# DEMENTIA ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

## Statement of Functional Expenses

Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Management &amp; General</u>	<u>Fund- Raising</u>	
<b><u>2023</u></b>				
Communications	\$ 3,247	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,247
Information technology	4,353			4,353
Membership Support Consultant	38,609			38,609
Credit card processing and bank fees	957			957
Accounting		8,600		8,600
Office expenses	-	855	-	855
	<u>\$ 47,166</u>	<u>\$ 9,455</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 56,621</u>

<b><u>2022</u></b>				
Communications	\$ 3,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,004
Information technology	12,719			12,719
Conferences	2,460			2,460
Membership Support Consultant	11,519			11,519
Credit card processing and bank fees		683		683
Accounting		5,000		5,000
Office expenses	-	671	-	671
	<u>\$ 29,702</u>	<u>\$ 6,354</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 36,056</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report

# OPERATIONAL REPORT



**Annika Alvarez**

Member and Events Support  
Officer

Over the past year, several key initiatives have been undertaken to enhance the accessibility and engagement of our members at Dementia Alliance International. This report outlines the significant efforts and accomplishments achieved to support our mission and improve our organizational processes.

One such enhancement has been that of our members' mailing list. Recognizing the importance of clear and accessible communication, we reworked our email designs by updating colours, links, buttons, and headings to make them more accessible to people living with dementia. This overhaul has significantly improved readability and accessibility for our members and has led to more engagement.

In addition to the mailing list updates, we also revised our welcome letters to create a faster and more accessible onboarding experience. By switching to a personal letter from the Member Support Officer and carefully selecting the included information, we have made the onboarding process less clunky for new members. This initiative ensures that new members feel welcomed and well-informed from their first interaction with us.

# OPERATIONAL REPORT

Our website has undergone significant enhancements to provide more resources and improve transparency. We added donation widgets to our blog posts, embedded videos for better engagement, and created new pages that clearly link our [advocacy submissions](#) and [organizational reporting](#). These updates not only enhance the website's functionality but create more transparency for our members and donors.

A notable project has been the formatting of a [resource list](#) for the Dementia Alliance International Environmental Design Special Interest Group (DAI-EDSiG). This list comprises environmental design resources aimed at creating accessible spaces for people living with dementia. We are currently working on promoting this valuable resource to ensure it reaches those who can benefit the most.

To support new board members living with dementia, we created a comprehensive welcome pack designed to make the onboarding process more accessible. This welcome pack ensures that new board members are well-supported and informed, facilitating a smoother integration into their roles.

We have also been actively promoting the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)'s [Age with Rights](#) campaign. As part of this effort, we created and submitted videos featuring our members, highlighting the importance of advocating for the rights of older persons. This campaign has helped raise awareness and promote the rights of older individuals.

# OPERATIONAL REPORT

Our monthly Cafe le Brains sessions have continued to provide a platform for individuals living with dementia to share their experiences. Each session has featured a speaker who is living with dementia, fostering a sense of community and support among our members.

To enhance our strategic planning and organizational development, we have initiated bi-monthly strategy meetings. These meetings have improved our strategic alignment and facilitated better planning for the future.

In summary, the past period has been marked by significant improvements aimed at enhancing accessibility, engagement, and transparency within Dementia Alliance International. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting our members and advocating for the rights of individuals living with dementia.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Alvarez". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Annika Alvarez**

Member and Events Support  
Officer

# OPERATIONAL REPORT

## Organization Snapshot



4 weekly support groups facilitated by people living with dementia open to anyone living with a dementia diagnosis.



2 weekly support groups dedicated to people with a diagnosis who live alone, one in each hemisphere.



A monthly cafe le brain, with alternating times including guest speakers who are living with dementia.



20 regular volunteers all living with a dementia diagnosis + many others who help out from time to time!



Weekly blogs and news on what's happening in the dementia community.



Global advocacy by and for people with dementia in the form of submissions, letters, content and our presence.

# ADVOCACY REPORT



**Theresa Flavin**  
Human Rights Officer

In 2023, i travelled to the 13th session of the United Nations Open Ended Working Group to advocate for an international convention for the human rights of older people. I had the opportunity to address the member states and provided the living experience of the impact of ageism and stigma on the human rights and dignity of people living with dementia.

I presented the case that while dementia is considered widely to be a disability and thus captured by the convention on the rights of people with a disability, due to the arbitrary and systemic ageist structures in place, we are actively excluded from disability specific support, maintenance therapy, cognitive and physical rehabilitation and other supports provided to any other person with an acquired disability such as stroke or head injury.

Heads turned at the United Nations when i introduced myself as an actual person living with dementia. Bums shuffled uncomfortably and I believe that i brought a new context to the discussions through the true voice of lived experience. I acknowledged the support provided to me to attend and present my case from Dementia Alliance International, primarily through the generous and effective guidance provided by Kate Swaffer.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

In OWEGA 2024, modest progress was made to move forward towards consideration of the development of a convention.

It is important to also note that in 2019 DAI hosted the first ever Side Event at the 12th Conference of State Parties on the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (COSP12) to represent dementia as a disability, which you can view [here](#). Remarkably, no other organisation had ever formally represented people with dementia in this way before. You can read the Statement by Kate Swaffer, a co-founder of DAI and chair at that time [here](#).

I also had the unique opportunity to present to the [American Association of Retired Persons](#) \*(AARP) and [Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People](#) (GAROP) in New York to advocate for an equal seat at the table with our paid and funded Non Government Organisations, who still work predominantly for us not with us. I advocated for improved partnership and embedding living experience into their organisations.

In 2023, DAI made a significant [submission](#) to the Australian Department of Health and Age Care in relation to to an Exposure Draft of proposed new Age Care Act. This was a lengthy and detailed submission, placing the need for equal rights of people living with dementia, de institutionalisation strategies, Supported Decision Making and Autonomy and the Right to Health. We further strongly advocated for the provision of specific disability support to older people in Australia alongside the age care system.

# ADVOCACY REPORT

A further [submission](#) was developed and submitted to the Disability Royal Commission, further advocating for equality for people living with dementia.

DAI also provided a substantial [submission](#) to the United Nations Open Ended Working Group Questionnaire, again highlighting the need for equal access to human rights for people living with dementia.

In parallel with the written submissions, DAI have been active in numerous organisations including [Rights of Older Persons Australia](#), [Older Persons Advocacy Network](#), National Health and Medical Research Council, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Office of the Attorney General amongst others, always bringing the true and genuine voice of people actively living with dementia.



**Theresa Flavin**  
Human Rights Officer

# ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



**Emily Ong**

DAI Environmental Design -  
Special Interest Group

The Environmental Design Special Interest Group (ED-SiG) has been actively meeting bimonthly and working on four objectives identified from the [ADI World Alzheimer's Report \(2020\)](#).

The Project Lead and Co-Chair is Ms Emily Ong (Singapore) supported by Co-Chair A/Prof Jacki Liddle (Australia) and a steering committee.

In the reported year the group had such achievements as publishing a journal article about the group (1); presentation of a poster about the group and Dignity of Design Manifesto by group member Veljko Mijic at the Kongres Hrvatske Alzheimer Alijanse conference in Varazdin, Croatia, in April 2023 (2); and continuing to grow the membership of the group.

Our compilation of recommended resources to support environment design has completed phase 1 and is now available on the [DAI website](#).

# ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

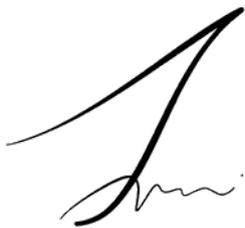
Other Activities and Changes undertaken by DAI ED-SiG in 2023 include:

- Executive leadership change at both Chair and Steering Committee levels. There is no project lead and the new co-chair is Martin Roberston, and the new Steering Committee members: Martin Roberston, Emily Ong, Dennis Frost, Jacki Liddle, Richard Fleming, Habib Chaudhury, Vidya Shenoy, Carol Ma, and new addition Joanna Knapp, Joanna Sun, William Siew and Eileen and Douglas Taylor.
- Revision of the Terms of Reference 2023
- DAI Environmental Design Special Interest Group (EDSiG) Symposium at the ADI Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Brunei, on 29 October, 2023. The symposium aimed to raise awareness and promote dementia-enabling design in the Asia Pacific Region. A local case study was used for the panel discussion which comprised one local architect, one local care partner who was a board member of DAI, one expert in technology intervention and one representative from TADA to share their Metro Station wayfinding project. The session was moderated by Emily.
- Working on the concept of Ukraine's needs for environmental design for the post-war rebuilding plan for people with dementia. The concept paper was presented to the Ukraine committee by a member of EDSiG.

# ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

(1) Ong, E., Frost, D., Kuliga, S., Layton, N., & Liddle, J. (2023). Creating a consumer-driven global community of practice to support action within environmental design with people living with dementia: assistive technology challenges and opportunities. *Brain Impairment*, 24 (2) 219-228.

(2) Fleming, R. Ong, E. ,Liddle ,J., Mijic, V. (2023). Values and principles to guide the use of the built environment as a non-pharmacological intervention for improving the lives of people living with dementia. Poster presented at Kongres Hrvatske Alzheimer Alijanse, Varazdin, April 2023.



**Emily Ong**

DAI Environmental Design -  
Special Interest Group



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS AND DONORS



**Alzheimer's  
Disease  
International**



Thank  
You