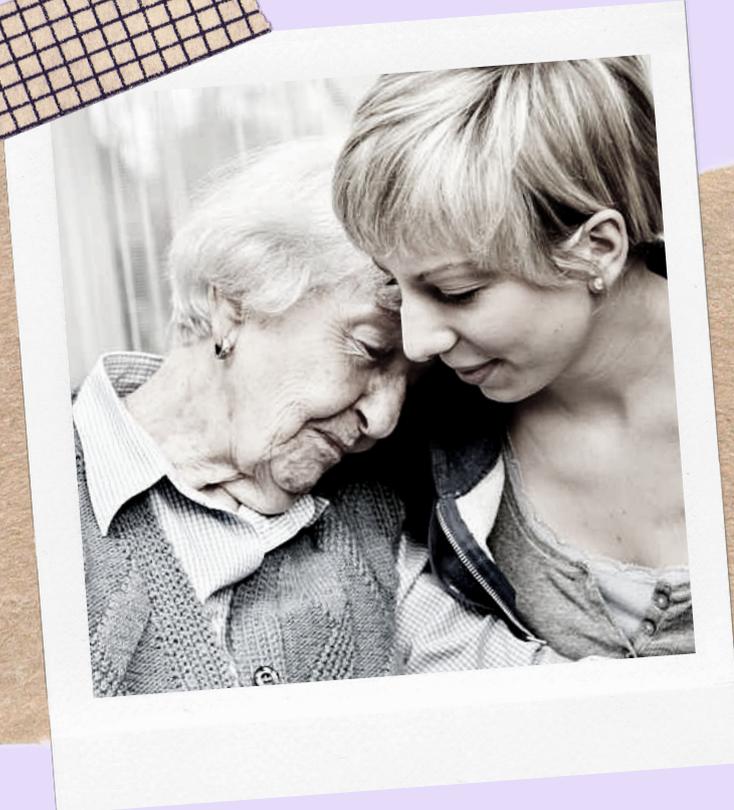


The Personal Impact



Mel is one of our generous supporters and is learning to live with Alzheimer's disease in her family right now. This is Mel's story:

Learning about Alzheimer's disease and how it will eventually affect Mum has been really hard. **I know we'll lose her long before we should.**

My mum has had many traumas in her life, but found happiness and kindness with her second husband, who sadly died shortly after being diagnosed with cancer. As the grief from her husband's death eased somewhat, the forgetfulness she had been having did not go away. After several tests, the doctor told her she had **Alzheimer's disease.**

She had her driver's licence revoked and had to rely on others to take her out of the house. She started walking to the shops, just to get some company as she sat among strangers. As the Alzheimer's progressed, those walking visits gave her family stress – would she be able to get home? One night I was talking to her on the phone and she said she was in the dark – she'd forgotten to turn on the lights as the evening had started. She put down the receiver, to go and turn them on – but then couldn't find the lights nor phone, so wandered alone in the pitch black of her house, until I could get there and let myself in with my key, and turn the lights on for her.

Mum now lives in a nursing home, where she gets a lot of care. Each visit she remembers us less and less. She of course had a lot of joy in her life as well – two children, friends, family, and she loved her hobbies of gardening, sewing, crafting, and socialising. **Every single day I wish there was a cure for Alzheimer's.**

Sincerely,

Mel