

# Dementia can strike



Don't forget I have a big heart that will never forget you

Living with Alzheimer's disease is devastating for the sufferer and a distressing journey for friends and family, reports **ELLIE TURNER**.

A FATHER is forced to tell his son that soon he might see him as a stranger — he will become just a shadow of a man.

He says, "You know how elephants can remember things for 50 years and goldfish only have a three-second memory? "Well, right now

I am like an elephant, but I am going to become more like a goldfish.

"But don't forget I have a big heart that will never forget you."

These were the words of Jack Cranwell's dad when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease eight years ago.

The dread of an unstoppable evil is felt by the families of more than 2700 Territorians.

Many people will say that dementia sets in when the mind falls victim to age, right? Wrong.

Dementia Awareness Week will wind up on Monday.

The campaign urges those worried about their memory — or that of a loved one — to seek medical help.

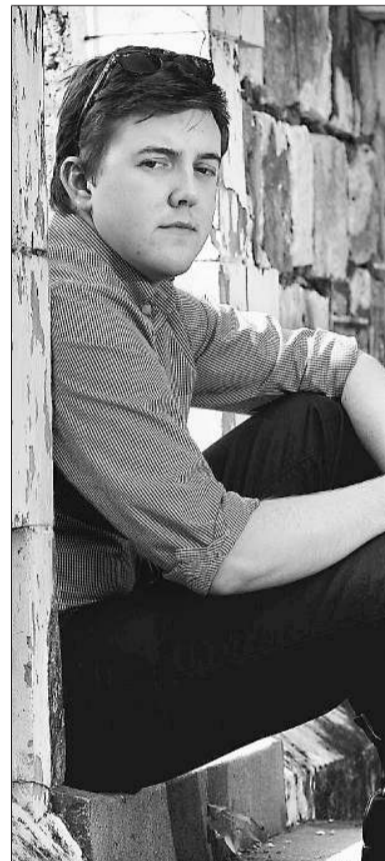
Degenerative brain disorders are not a "normal part of ageing", professionals say.

They can strike at any age — a devastating truth that Mr Cranwell, 20, knows too well.

His adolescence was poured into caring for his father Richard who, now aged 63, is in the advanced stages of the disease.

"He has no memory now," Mr Cranwell told the *NT News*. "It frustrates the hell out of you — he is like the opposite of a ghost. It is incredibly hard to talk about."

Mr Cranwell's life changed overnight when



**NO MEMORY:** Jack Cranwell. Pictures: **JUSTIN SANSON**

EXPERT PANEL ON  
**Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**



## Australia's Constitution – What about local government?

You are invited to have your say on whether the Constitution should be changed to recognise the role of local government.

An Expert Panel has been asked to look at the level of support in Australia for changing the Constitution so that it refers to local government. The Panel would like to hear your views on this question. This will help it form a view on:

- the level of support for constitutional recognition of local government, and
- the various forms that such recognition could take, together with the advantages and disadvantages of different options.

Find out more, read a Discussion Paper from the Panel, and have your say by visiting [www.localgovrecognition.gov.au](http://www.localgovrecognition.gov.au)

Community meetings are being held in:

<b>Dubbo, NSW</b>	30 September
<b>Karratha, WA</b>	5 October
<b>Wodonga, Vic</b>	13 October
<b>Townsville, Qld</b>	18 October
<b>Launceston, Tas</b>	25 October
<b>Murray Bridge, SA</b>	See website for details

Written submissions can be lodged until 4 November 2011.

[www.localgovrecognition.gov.au](http://www.localgovrecognition.gov.au)

p: 1800 044 938

AG52580

PUB: NT NEWS DATE: 24-SEP-2011 PAGE: 22 COLOR: CMYK



Australian Government



Northern Territory Government

### ROYAL DARWIN HOSPITAL

#### UPGRADES TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT/MAIN FOYER

Upgrade works have commenced on the Emergency Department and the Main Foyer of Royal Darwin Hospital.

These upgrades have been designed to improve access to treatment and reduce waiting times. Works will be completed late 2011.

#### Scope of works

Works include a new Fast Track Area, five additional beds in the Emergency Department, redevelopment of the Triage and Reception area, relocation of the Pathology and Discharge Lounge and upgrades to the Main Foyer.

#### Emergency Department

The Emergency Department is fully operational throughout the entire upgrade process and patients will receive the same level of care as always.

For more information, please contact DCI Project Director Stephen Jackson on 8946 5093 or email [healthprojects.dci@nt.gov.au](mailto:healthprojects.dci@nt.gov.au)



A Territory Government Initiative

[www.healthynt.nt.gov.au](http://www.healthynt.nt.gov.au)

MG312001

## A DEBATE ABOUT THE CARBON TAX IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DEBATE AUSTRALIA NEEDS TO HAVE

Come to this important **FREE** information session to find out about climate change, the carbon tax and how it will affect North Western Australia.

**Darwin, 3 October**

5.30pm - 7.00pm

Crowne Plaza Darwin

32 Mitchell Street, Darwin

#### Speakers:

**Professor Bob Carter**

Australia's leading climate scientist  
Climatologist, James Cook University

*The facts and myths of climate change*

**John Roskam**

Executive Director,  
Institute of Public Affairs

*Northern Australia: overtaxed and overlooked*

To RSVP or find out more information contact Rob Phayer at [rphayer@ipa.org.au](mailto:rphayer@ipa.org.au) or on 03 9600 4744 (RSVP not essential to attend).

The federal government's Carbon Tax will have significant consequences for Australian industry and Australian families.

To find out more about the Institute of Public Affairs, please visit [www.ipa.org.au](http://www.ipa.org.au)  
To find out about our North Australia Project, please visit <http://anewnorth.ipa.org.au>

04.12.06