



## John Wheeldon

Category: Caregiver Innovation

**Nomination submitted by care coordinator Kiran, in Central West.**

John's wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2022. She has declined significantly, and due to the progression of her illness now requires constant attention and care. Her spouse, John, is a calm, gentle and kind man who has had to be very creative in ways to keep his spouse safe.

When his wife began to leave their home by herself it became quite unsafe, and she would often become quite agitated.

Always thinking of her safety and dignity, John began to look to find ways to ensure that his wife felt safe and remain at home. John has since spent many hours researching behaviours associated with Alzheimer's and Dementia and has become creative in keeping his from leaving their home.

In addition to installing locks and alarms, he has printed off stop signs and placed them in front of the doors. Beyond this, John has created and placed other signs on the doors and around their home to remind her "This is your home, you are safe here". Amongst the signs are lovely notes reminding her that John is her husband for times when she is unable to recognize him.

John's devotion to his wife, and her quality of life is incredibly inspiring.