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Dear Director,

I take the liberty of writing to you asking for space in your newspaper to enable me to publicly thank two groups who have been wonderful to my wife: Mamma Lena.

One group is the doctors and staff at the Bankstown Hospital who saved her life and the other the N.S.W. State Government of Bob Carr for a kind contribution of \$10,000 towards the making of a documentary on my wife's life.

We came to Australia in 1956 and shortly after our arrival my wife started to dedicate her life, through radio and newspapers, to helping our fellow italo-australian migrants. She has been highly decorated by the Italian and Australian governments but the recognition she holds dearest of all is the name the community has given her: "Mamma Lena".

I enclosed some information on some of the highlights of Mamma Lena's life in the last few years.

The reason I would like to thank the doctors and staff of Bankstown Hospital is that, at the end of July, Mamma Lena went in for a routine check which resulted in an urgent operation for bowel cancer with two tumors being removed. Because of her advanced age, 87, it was touch and go. However, I am pleased to say that because of these wonderful and dedicated doctors and staff she was out of the operating theatre and home in an amazingly short time. As you will read in one of the enclosed letters, even our family Doctor Fadi Abouzeid could not believe her recovery.

Perhaps it was also her faith and optimistic outlook which helped her recovery. Two factors which are most important in life and which a lot of older people may wish to consider.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Dino Gustin