

Thursday 22 August 2019

## **Android now an option to have 'A Better Visit' with people living with dementia**

Dementia Australia's engaging A Better Visit app is now available for Android tablet devices, allowing more people to experience the free app that enables families and loved ones to better connect and communicate when visiting a family member with dementia.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said she is delighted more people will now have access to the app which features a range of two player games designed to facilitate positive social interactions between people with dementia and their visitors.

"Since launching A Better Visit in November 2018 there have been more than 3,000 downloads which is encouraging for such a specific purpose app," Ms McCabe said.

"We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback and requests for an Android version,"

"Thanks to the funding from the Gaudry Foundation we are now able to make A Better Visit accessible to Android tablet users."

Dementia Australia Ambassador, gamer and television presenter, Stephanie 'Hex' Bendixsen said she is glad more people will now be able to benefit from A Better Visit.

"I cared for my mother Wendy, who died in 2018 from dementia and I wish an app like this had been available then because it can be challenging to come up with different things to do and talk about, especially as symptoms progress," Ms Bendixsen said.

"I am thrilled that more people will now have the chance to better connect with their loved one thanks to the Android launch of A Better Visit."

The development of A Better Visit was sponsored by Lifeview Residential Care and included access to their residents who trialled and consulted on the development of the app.

Lifeview Residential Care CEO Madeline Gall said the residents are enjoying using the app.

"I am so pleased that even more residents and their families will have access to A Better Visit now that it is Android accessible," Ms Gall said.

"Through the stimulation and interaction A Better Visit prompts we hear more laughter and chatting.

"I am looking forward to hearing even more laughter and chatting now that A Better Visit is available on Android tablet devices."

Both the Android and IOS versions of the app were created thanks to the technical knowhow of the team at Swinburne University Future Self and Design Living Lab.

The app was first launched after the publication of an Inclusion and Isolation report by Dementia Australia that found 60 per cent of surveyed people said they did not know what to say to someone with dementia while many others reported feeling uncomfortable when visiting as they didn't know what to do.

A Better Visit for iPad and Android tablets is now free to download and use through the app stores.

Further information about the app can found at <https://www.dementia.org.au/abettervisit>.

Dementia Australia is the national peak body and charity for people, of all ages, living with all forms of dementia, their families and carers. It provides advocacy, support services, education and information. An estimated 447,000 people have dementia in Australia. This number is projected to reach almost 1.1 million by 2058. Dementia Australia is the new voice of Alzheimer's Australia. Dementia Australia's services are supported by the Australian Government.

**National Dementia Helpline 1800 100 500**

**Interpreter service available**

(The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)

**Dementia is a National Health Priority Area**

**[www.dementia.org.au](http://www.dementia.org.au)**

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When talking or writing about dementia please refer to [Dementia-Friendly Language Guidelines](#).