

Media Release

Dementia-Friendly takes-off at Brisbane Airport

Alzheimer's Australia is thrilled to welcome Brisbane Airport on board as it becomes Australia's first dementia-friendly airport with the launch of an airport guide for travellers with dementia.

The guide, [*Ensuring a Smooth Journey: A Guide to Brisbane Airport for people living with Dementia and their Travel Companions*](#), developed by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) based [Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration: Carers and Consumers \(DCRC-CC\)](#), looks to improve the experience of air travel for people with dementia.

Alzheimer's Australia CEO Maree McCabe said the Australian-first was a major step forward in making Australia more dementia-friendly.

"Australia's first dementia-friendly airport is a fantastic achievement and Alzheimer's Australia congratulates everyone who has worked to see it become a reality," Ms McCabe said.

"Consumers have shared with us their frustrations at way-finding in large busy places - such as airports. There are more than 413,000 people living with dementia in Australia. We know that without a significant medical breakthrough that figure is expected to be more than 1.1 million people by 2056.

"People living with a diagnosis of dementia can still enjoy travel, and may require some extra assistance to do so. This guide is fantastic in enabling people living with dementia and their carers to continue to do the things they enjoy, like travel, while assisting in navigating the airport, preparing and planning for travel."

Ms McCabe said no matter the size of the organisation, dementia-friendly principles could be achieved.

"Dementia-friendly may include changes to design, layout, signage and way finding or education of staff to be able to recognise and better assist a person living with dementia," Ms McCabe said.

"We expect this is just the beginning and look forward to working with many more organisations, large and small, to think about how they can become more dementia-friendly."

Alzheimer's Australia is developing the [Dementia-Friendly Communities Project](#), which aims to build understanding, awareness and acceptance of dementia in the community with financial assistance from the Australian Government.

For information and support on dementia, contact the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500.

Alzheimer's Australia is the charity for people with dementia and their families and carers. As the peak body, it provides advocacy, support services, education and information. An estimated 413,000 people have dementia in Australia. This number is projected to reach more than 1.1 million in 40 years.

National Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500

An interpreter service is available

(The National Dementia Helpline is an Australian Government Initiative)

Dementia is a National Health Priority Area

www.fightdementia.org.au

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