

What is Verily Connect?

Verily Connect is a place for carers to connect online and support each other in a virtual dementia friendly community. It is an Australian Government initiative for increasing support for rural Australians caring for a person living with dementia or memory loss.



Central features of Verily Connect include the website (<https://verilyconnect.org.au/>) and mobile application (app) with information about dementia, locally available services, and a chat function, and videoconferencing meetings using Zoom. Verily Connect trained volunteers and a technology hub were available in all communities to support the technical needs of carers.

Videoconference support for carers

Face-to-face volunteer support



Website and mobile app

What happened?

Verily Connect was progressively implemented in 12 communities: 8 in Victoria, 2 in New South Wales, and 2 in South Australia.

Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	
Koo Wee Rup, Victor Harbor, Molong								1
		Heathcote, Mansfield, Horsham						2
			Riverland, Robinvale, Warracknabeal					3
					Macedon Ranges, Nyngan, Edenhope			4

Carers completed surveys at 5 different time points (every 2 months). Surveys asked about each person's context, their feelings of social support, and challenges of caring.

Behind the scenes, the research team met weekly and liaised frequently with participants, the health services team met monthly, the investigator team met monthly, and the advisory group met every 3 months.

113 people were involved

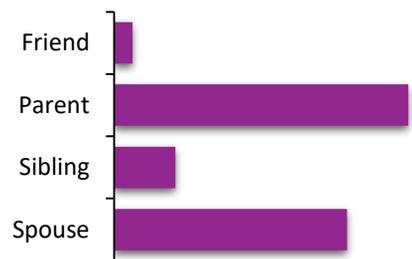


4 out of five carers were female
Carers' age ranged from 34 to 79 years

Length of time in a caring role



Who did carers look after?



Where did carers live?



Verily helped me get and give support

It's certainly just been really good to be able to talk about what's going on for me and hear other people's points of view.

You might be following along in their steps, or you might be ahead of them in the process. You might be helpful to some other person in the group

What's next?

- The Verily Connect website/app will be publicly available across Australia until December 2020.
- A toolkit is being developed to inform other communities about how to join the Verily Connect online community.

