

# Media Release

## Andrew Broad

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister  
Federal Member for Mallee

25 October 2018

### **SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA CARERS IN EDENHOPE, WARRACKNABEAL AND HORSHAM**

A high-tech regional network is being rolled out to support carers of people with dementia in Edenhope, Warracknabeal and Horsham thanks to a \$1.7 million investment from the Federal Coalition Government.

Federal Member for Mallee Andrew Broad said local carers were being asked to join the Virtual Dementia Friendly Rural Communities (Verily Connect) project, which uses a newly developed smartphone app, website and videoconferencing to help care for carers.

“It’s an online meeting place that is the exciting result of harnessing technology to help humanity,” Mr Broad said.

“We know how hard our local carers work, and this is about reducing the challenges of distance and isolation, linking carers and helping them continue delivering critical support to some of our most vulnerable and treasured citizens.

Mr Broad said that with over 425,000 Australians living with dementia, the work of carers was critical, especially in regional areas.

“Verily Connect is about supporting the many seniors who rightly want to age in our local communities,” said Mr Broad.

The commitment to Verily Connect is part of the Coalition Government’s more than \$200 million investment in research to manage, prevent and find cures for dementia, with the five-year *Boosting Dementia* Research initiative launched in 2015.

To participate in the Verily Connect project go to <https://verilyconnect.org.au/>

**Ends.**

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