INTRODUCTION

- Rural caregivers of people living with dementia often face geographical barriers to access services, stigma, and lack of localized supports from other caregivers
- Needs for flexible support within a dementia-friendly community METHODS
- 1. A Virtual Dementia Friendly Community cluster trial across 12 Australian rural communities in 2017-19 with 113 participants (37 providers, 39 volunteers, 37 carers)
- 2. Verily Connect web app was evaluated using Consolidated Framework of Implementation Research (Damschroder et al, 2009)

RESULTS

	Pre		Post		Change score (pre-post)				
	Ν	Mean (SD)	Ν	Mean (SD)	N (Pair)	Mean (SD)	95% Confidenc e Interval	P value	effect size
Overall social suppor t (MOS- SSS)	27	40.88 (27.8 6)	19	58.37 (29.7 2)	18	-15.12 (16.69)	(-23.42, - 6.82)	0.001	0.906
Caregi ver burden (Zarit)	28	67.75 (12.0 2)	16	62.28 (8.21)	16	5.28 (12.34)	(-1.30, 11.85)	0.108	0.428

DISCUSSION

- COVID-19 promotes wider acceptance of technology and reduce digital divide
- Hybrid online/face-to-face support programs specifically designed for older adults, so that older adults have equitable opportunities to access technological innovations

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

 Commonwealth Australia Dementia and Aged Care Services Grant



IT is not for me: Why age matters in technological innovation

Irene Blackberry, Clare Wilding on behalf of the Verily Connect Team



Lack of face-toface support for caregivers

Sometimes we've got the information, but there is too much information...The simplicity of Verily probably is a positive, because you're not getting bombarded with too much information









Need for support in helping caregivers online

JOHN RICHARDS CENTRE

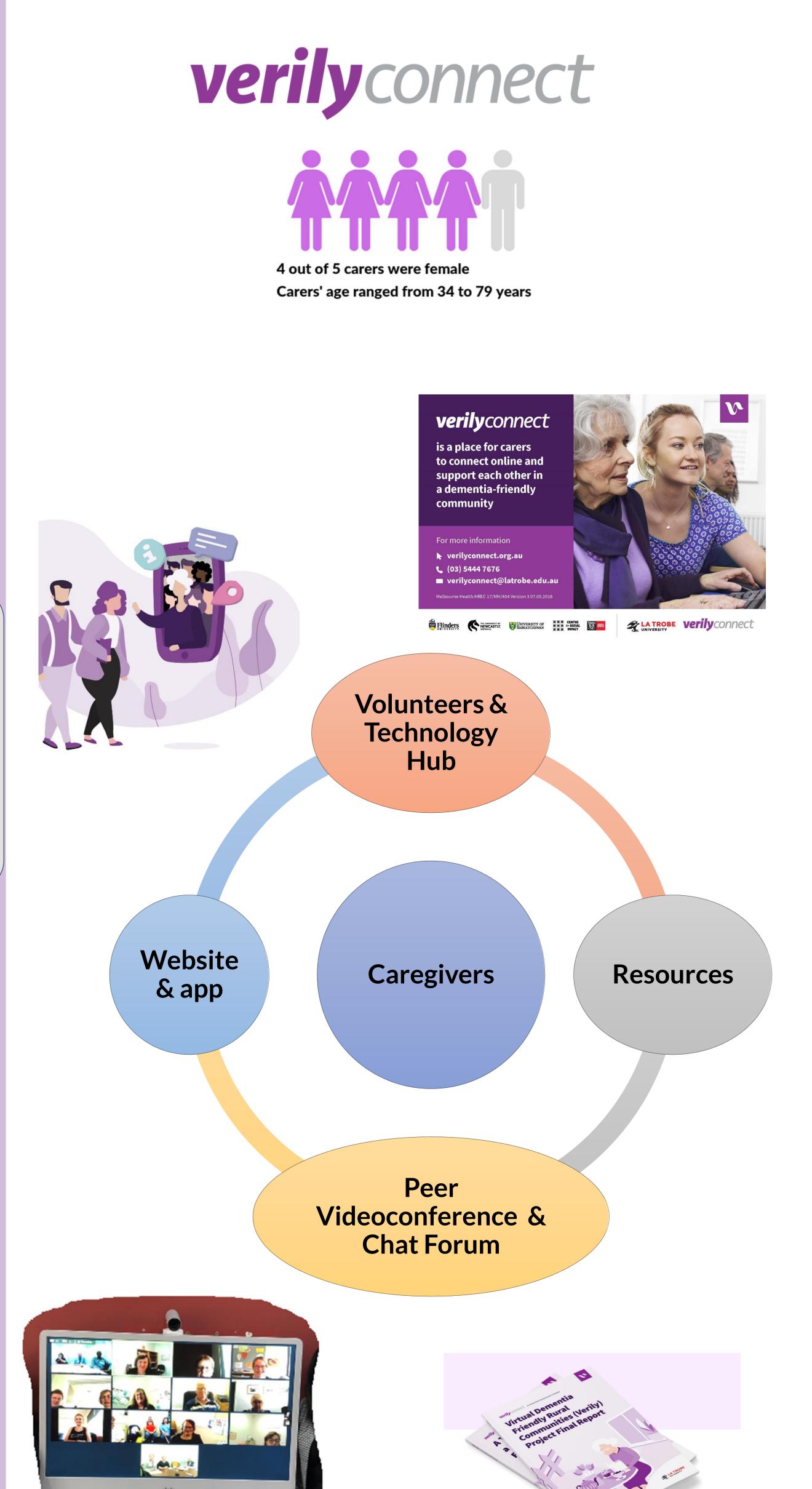
for Rural Ageing Research

You're working and you're caring, you don't necessarily have time to get out to be face to face. So, anything that brings it in to you is much better.

> **Technology** was too daunting, unstable internet connection, reluctance to change

GSA 2020 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Turning 75: Why Age Matters









www.verilyconnect.org.au