**Moove & Groove**

**Pre Budget Submission**

**January 2021**

**Executive Summary**

Moove & Groove is a world first wellbeing solution that provides a complete online dementia support and lifestyle program at scale, employing music and video. Since launching in late 2019, the solution accelerated rollout during COVID and has now delivered benefits to both residents and staff in over 130 Aged Care homes in Australia. These evidenced based benefits have been proven by Australian Catholic University research and there is an ongoing research partnership with Uniting Care NSW ACT. Outcomes include improvement in overall resident wellbeing, improved facility staff productivity and engagement, research results showing a 70% reduction of observed dementia behaviours and 65% of staff believing a reduction of chemical restraints could be achieved by using the program.

There are significant and growing gaps in resident wellbeing and behaviour management as evidenced by the Aged Care Royal Commission. With the onset of COVID 19 the sector has faced even more challenges to ensure the wellbeing of isolated residents. The same social distancing measures have also placed unprecedented stress on those living with dementia and their carers.

The Moove & Groove program is an evidence based innovative solution that can;

* Engage Isolated Residents
* Train staff at scale in using music as therapy as a dementia management tool
* Assist staff to comply with Aged Care Standards by offering personal centred choice for ALL residents at the click of a button – including over 40 language options
* Improve wellbeing for palliative care
* Provide engagement and connection opportunity for staff, families and volunteers and increase staff job satisfaction.

By partnering with Moove & Groove to rollout the program further the Government can offer Aged Care facilities assistance to implement a proven and innovative way to improve resident wellbeing and better manage dementia behaviours without drugs and restraints. With much negative press around the sector, support of this program by Government would provide positive stories of joy, connection and engagement for residents, staff and families and support for world first innovation in dementia care.

**The Solution**

Moove & Groove is an innovative technology-powered full lifestyle program that is transforming the way staff provide engaging activities in aged care facilities. The program combines 3 core components to deliver engaging moments of joy and connection for seniors and provide clear therapeutic benefits for those living with dementia.

The program provides users with access to online app with 1000s of podcasts, 700 videos and 550 music playlists specially selected and curated for seniors. We provide staff with silent disco technology kits and specialised training to enable them to be able to facilitate one on one or group listening and viewing experiences and how to manage dementia behaviours.

**Key Benefits as proven by research**

Moove & Groove have been working with ACU University for over 2 years to prove the benefits of the program and further develop the impact it can create for those living with dementia.

A summary of key research findings are below. This partnership was recently awarded a NSW COVID Innovation Grant for work in collaborating to build the personalised dementia solution. Full research results are available at- <https://www.mooveandgroove.com.au/research/>

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**Proposed initiatives**

There are a number of different initiatives the Government could partner with Moove & Groove to utilise technology to better support Aged Care providers and those living with Dementia in care and the community;

**1.Regional and Rural program funding support to implement the Moove & Groove program**

There are 368 rural and remote care facilities with over 26,000 residents and 16,000 living with dementia. Many of these areas have little access to dementia care specialists and training and poor access to local resources to deliver “in person lifestyle” experiences for their residents. By providing 1 year of access to the program @ $5,700 all 368 care facilities’ staff would have access to the program and staff and community volunteers could be trained.

Approx implementation cost - $2,097m for 1 year set up training, support and subscription

2. **Provide a funding pool for Aged Care providers to access grants to access the Moove & Groove program**. Criteria for funding could be provided by the government and subsidies or full grants could be offered to trial the program for 1 year.

Approx implementation cost - $100k to unlimited

**3.Provide funding for Moove & Groove to train 1000 aged care staff in Music as therapy**

We can utilise our expertise and technology elearning platform to train staff across the sector to enable them to better manage dementia behaviours without drugs and restraints

Approx implementation costs - $500k

**4. Provide additional funding to manage dementia behaviours and create more transparency in how Aged Care homes spend funds received.**

Approx implementation cost – this is a general recommendation

**5. Provide funding to enable Moove & Groove to pilot and trial their program in Homecare**

The program has massive application for those living at home and being supported by their families or homecare. In this capacity building initative Moove & Groove would be supported by the Government to develop a program and partnerships that can extend the program into the broader community to help those living with dementia

**Why now is the time**

Moove & Groove believes the Government should be supportive of the sector to embrace and implement new ways to manage dementia behaviour and improve resident wellbeing.

With the pressure of both COVID, high staff turnover and pressures to be less reliant on drugs and restraints the sector is urgently in need of- genuinely innovative ways to address these issues.

**Positive Impact**

Based off research and our current customer based feedback the program can;

* Reduce dementia behaviours and in turn Aged Care “ incidents “ including aggression (physical and verbal ) toward staff
* Reduce falls in care – a pilot client reported 30% reduction in falls as residents are more engaged and settled
* Increase staff satisfaction and connection to residents and therefore increase staff retention in Aged Care
* Upskill staff in how to deliver better wellbeing programs and music as therapy programs
* Facilitate family and volunteer engagement with those living in Aged Care
* Improve the mental health of those living in Aged Care

**Track Record of execution**

Our social purpose organisation has a proven track record of successful execution having rapidly responded to the pandemic and customer needs. We have also recently been awarded the following grants and awards:

NSW COVID Innovation Grant with ACU University -NSW Government Dec 2020

SA Health Grant for Palliative care pilot - 2020

Female Founders Grant - Federal Government Dec 2020

LASA Innovaing Semi Finalist Award – NOV 2020

We could quickly execute any of the above initiatives to deliver immediate impact to the Aged Care sector.

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