

## **Australia's largest rollout of humanoid companion robots transforms aged care**

*Andromeda Robotics and mecwacare deploy 22 Abi companions across Victoria, supporting more than 1,500 residents*

**17 April 2026, Melbourne, Australia** - Andromeda Robotics and leading not-for-profit aged care provider mecwacare have completed the largest Australian deployment of empathetic humanoid companion robots in aged care, with 22 Abi robots now living full-time across all mecwacare residential homes.

The milestone rollout supports more than 1,500 aged care residents and marks a significant step forward in addressing chronic loneliness, connection, and the growing complexity of care.

The newly updated version of Andromeda's humanoid companion Abi has been developed in close partnership with mecwacare since February 2025. Abi has been co-designed with clinical and lifestyle teams to enhance residents' wellbeing, particularly those living with dementia or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Andromeda designed Abi with a goal of replacing one billion hours of loneliness with meaningful connection. Abi complements care staff by providing an additional layer of empathetic companionship to residents. With Australia facing a projected aged care workforce shortfall of 110,000 by 2030, alongside rising dementia rates and social isolation, the need for innovative solutions has never been greater.

### **Proven impact on wellbeing**

Andromeda's internal 'Carer Perspectives' research shows Abi is already having a measurable impact:

- 74% of staff report observing reduced resident agitation
- Staff rated Abi:
  - 8/10 for resident enjoyment
  - 8/10 for positive impact on overall wellbeing
  - 9/10 overall satisfaction

The findings highlight Abi's strength as a companion, with strong links between the level of companionship provided and staff confidence in her reliability and value as part of the care team.

### **Built for connection**

Abi is tailored for aged care environments, with her latest enhanced features including:

- Dementia-friendly communication and calming interactions
- Ability to speak up to 90 languages
- Ability to remember the residents she has met and the stories they have shared
- More responsive, real-time conversations

- Enhanced height and eye-level engagement
- Improved navigation using LiDAR technology
- Improved audio for older hearing profiles

From storytelling and singing to dancing and reconnecting in the residents' preferred languages, Abi is helping create meaningful, everyday moments of joy and connection.

*Quotes:*

**Grace Brown, Co-founder and CEO, Andromeda Robotics**

"We designed Abi to address the real and growing problem of loneliness and social isolation. We're proud to achieve this milestone with mecwacare, who share our goal of using innovative technology to support aged care residents in ways that are personal, social and deeply human."

**Anne McCormack, CEO, mecwacare**

"Our residents see Abi as part of the circle of care and our staff refer to Abi as our *Happiness Assistant*. She's lifting moods, reducing physical, social and linguistic isolation, encouraging connection and helping people express themselves in ways that feel natural and comfortable. For families, seeing their loved ones laughing and engaging is incredibly powerful."

**mecwacare resident**

A mecwacare Wahroonga resident in Canadian (Ballarat) described Abi's visit as "the best part of my day," smiling and moving to the music despite being bed-bound.

**ENDS**

***Media contact:***

**Emma Brammer** - Andromeda Robotics

E [emma.brammer@andromeda.com.au](mailto:emma.brammer@andromeda.com.au)

M +61 400 688 149

**About Andromeda Robotics**

**Andromeda Robotics** builds emotionally intelligent humanoid companion robots designed to live and work in social spaces. Its humanoid companion, Abi, is created specifically for aged care environments, combining natural conversation, multilingual support and engaging activities to reduce loneliness and enhance residents' quality of life. Andromeda has offices in Melbourne and San Francisco and is backed by leading global investors committed to the future of human-centred robotics, with Abi currently available to customers in Australia and the US.

**About mecwacare**

**mecwacare** is a leading not-for-profit organisation delivering aged care and disability services across Victoria. For more than 65 years, mecwacare has provided compassionate, respectful, high-quality care to older Australians and people living with a disability. The organisation operates 22 residential aged care homes, seven retirement villages, three affordable housing locations, two op shops as well as a network of community and disability service centres.