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Silver Chain Group unveils Holographic Doctor in Health Care World-First

Cutting edge technology, which will allow health care professionals to visit clients in holographic form, has been revealed on the world stage by Silver Chain Group, Australia's leading provider of community health and in-home health care services.

Silver Chain Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr Christopher McGowan, unveiled the new mixed reality application for Microsoft HoloLens, Silver Chain Enhanced Medical Mixed Reality, or EMMR (pronounced EM-R), to tech and business experts from across the world at Microsoft's Envision conference in Florida last week.

EMMR will enable Silver Chain Group's 650 clients currently receiving services as part of the organisation's virtual hospital to experience real-time remote interaction with health care professionals in their own homes, with health care professionals able to appear as holograms projected via the Microsoft HoloLens headset.

Dr McGowan said EMMR was designed by Silver Chain Group, in consultation with Microsoft, integrating 'mixed reality' technology with real-life and projected holograms, enabling a new and seamless level of world's best interactive health and aged care.

"EMMR will enhance the delivery of our services, further supporting our clients to remain at home, rather than be transferred to a hospital," Dr McGowan said. "They can have their consultations in the home. They won't have to travel for appointments and clinical specialists can remain in central locations while still providing personalised care and saving the health care system time and money.

"Our research indicates around 30% of people don't need to be in hospital and could be receiving the same safe, quality treatment at home where they feel more comfortable with the added benefit of freeing hospital beds for critically unwell patients."

Using EMMR, a Silver Chain Group nurse visiting a client will use the Microsoft HoloLens to gain hands free access to clients' clinical data through a holographic dashboard, while a doctor will effectively 'see through the eyes of the nurse' as the consultation takes place and share access to the clinical data in real time.

"This new application will give clients greater confidence to live at home, with the knowledge that clinical staff can access specialists using Microsoft HoloLens, as well as the ability to share real time consultations with family members anywhere in the world, via mixed reality capture technology." Dr McGowan said.

EMMR represents the forefront of a technological revolution within health care in Australia, putting clients first and providing them with greater at home care options.

"EMMR raises the prospect not of 'will' technology change our healthcare system, but more 'when' and 'how' it will revolutionise delivery of care in Australia," he said.

EMMR is in the final stages of software development and will be trailed in coming months across a variety of locations and settings before the technology is rolled out to Silver Chain Group clients on a larger scale.

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About the Silver Chain Group

We are a not-for-profit organisation delivering community health and care services across Australia. We help people of all ages to receive the care they need to remain happy and healthy at home.

We have a proud history of serving Australians for over 110 years in Western Australia and more than 120 years as RDNS in South Australia. We currently deliver our services in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

With over 4,000 staff and 350 volunteers, we assist more than 94,000 people to remain living in their homes and community every year.

For more information, please see silverchain.org.au.