

# Dementia Speaking Book to launch on World Alzheimer's Day

Dementia SA is launching what is claimed to be the world's first Dementia Speaking Book, "Making Memories Matter" on 21 September 2014, World Alzheimer's Day. The Speaking Book was created by South Africans for South Africans and has been developed to reach low literacy and disadvantaged communities across the nation. It aims to help address the major inequality in literacy which deprives people access to crucial health information.



The book is currently available in English and Xhosa with bright illustrations and text that is supported by the pressing of page buttons resulting in the correlating text being clearly spoken out to the reader. Dementia SA estimates that each book will be read and listened to by over 50 people. Zane Wilson, pioneer of the Speaking Book concept, commented, "I think all will be most impressed with the approach taken by Dementia SA."

The Speaking Book tells the story of a rural community care giver who works with older people and her strategy focuses on a grandmother, gogo Busi. The book contains information on dementia, resulting behavioral changes, and cultural issues like branding older women with dementia as witches. Recognizing abuse, health tips, communicating with persons with dementia and respecting people with living with dementia are brought to the fore in the story line.

Alzheimer's disease, followed by vascular dementia are the most common forms of dementia. Conservatively, it is estimated that 36.5 million people are living with dementia globally and this is set to double by 2030 and triple by 2050. Dementia needs to be recognized as a public health priority as [every four seconds a new diagnosis is made](#). The stress on caregivers looking after persons with dementia is extreme. Dementia SA provides training and support for all those affected by dementia. Dementia SA's vision is of a South Africa where Dementia is recognized and acknowledged using person centered principles with respect and dignity for all affected.

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