

## News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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## **A Watchful Eye on Dementia Sufferers with MyLife** Signature Security to launch new personal locator service

**Sydney, Australia – July 20, 2010** – Australians are facing explosive growth in the number of people suffering from dementia and the risk of these people becoming lost is proving not only a real danger to them, but also a stressful burden to their carers and families.

- Number of people reported to go missing in Australia each year - 35,000
- One of the three groups most at risk of going missing - older people with dementia or memory loss; number of Australians with dementia in 2010 – around 230,000
- Estimated number of dementia sufferers by 2050 – 731,000\*

This month Signature Security Group (SSG), one of Australia's leading security companies, will launch a wearable device called the MyLife inTouch GPS Personal Locator, designed to help carers ensure their dementia patients don't get lost. MyLife inTouch is the industry's leading location solution and is based on the latest easy-to-wear device, Global Positioning System (GPS) software that can pinpoint a person's location to within 10 metres, and a personal 24x7 emergency response service.

While dementia is more prevalent in people aged over 65 it can also affect people in their 30s, 40s and 50s\*\*. The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's but it can also be caused by mental illness, Down Syndrome, stroke, Parkinson's and vascular conditions such as emphysema.

"Dementia doesn't just affect the patient," said Roger Jowett, Chief Operating Officer – MyLife, Signature Security Australia. "It also affects the lives of nearly one million Australians who care for a family member or friend with dementia, in addition to the staff in care facilities, and emergency services and healthcare personnel."

Similar in size and shape to a large wristwatch, the MyLife inTouch GPS Personal Locator is easy to wear, water-resistant and durable. The strap can be locked to prevent the wearer from removing it and the long-life battery can last up to three days in the home or six-to-eight hours when an Alert is activated.

When the wearer is inside the home the device is monitored by the base unit. Once the patient leaves the house GPS tracking software and Telstra mobile phone towers are used.

A boundary line is set up, using the GPS software, around the home or facility. An Alert is activated if the patient crosses this invisible boundary line and goes outside the designated area. The *MyLife* emergency response centre can then advise the carer or emergency services of the patient's location.

For dementia sufferers who are still living at home the *MyLife* inTouch GPS Personal Locator can help them stay at home longer as they don't have to be under the constant watch of another person. For care facilities, the new device can mean greater peace of mind when allowing residents to wander around the garden or go to the local shops.

"Becoming lost while walking is a common issue for people living with dementia," said Jason Burton, Manager Research and Consultancy Services, Alzheimer's Australia WA. "The outcomes of this can be severe with research showing the longer a person with dementia is missing, the greater the risk of the person being found harmed. Becoming lost is often traumatic both for the person with dementia and for the family carer. It has been shown that the stress related to this issue can be a key decision factor in the placement of the person into residential care."

The *MyLife* inTouch GPS Personal Locator can improve the working and living conditions of the carer by relieving them of the pressure of constantly monitoring their patient and giving them more time to handle the other tasks associated with caring for a dementia sufferer.

In addition the device has two-way speech capability so family members and carers can easily keep in touch with the dementia sufferer.

Other features include:

- Portability which means you can take the device with you when you go on holiday
- Light weight
- Displays the time and date so also functions as a watch
- Rapid recharging of the battery on the wearable device

"Giving someone who is suffering from dementia the freedom to walk out in the garden or to their local shops without risk of them becoming lost, can improve their quality of life and extend the time they can be in their own home or a low-care facility," said Jowett.

*MyLife* inTouch will be available by the end of July, from any Signature Security office in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra, or from a national network of accredited customer care consultants. To register interest in the *MyLife* inTouch Personal Locator please contact *MyLife* on 1300 659 701 or visit [www.signaturesecurity.com.au](http://www.signaturesecurity.com.au).



## About Signature Security

Signature Security Group is a leading security company and integrator of **electronic security systems** and has been providing monitoring for its Australian and New Zealand clients for more than 12 years. Our emergency response centres have the highest accreditation available. We have been operating in the personal medical alert business **under the MyLife brand** for many years and have thousands of clients that rely on us for assistance.

\*Australian Federal Police National Missing Persons Coordination Centre  
<http://www.missingpersons.gov.au/nmpcc/key-links/publications.aspx>

\*\*Alzheimer's Australia