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Newer, faster way to care



HEALTH

Patrick Keam

A FLEDGLING phone app developed in Adelaide is simultaneously giving access to in-home health care and creating jobs in the western suburbs.

Ubercare, launched in March, already has 400 carers signed up – including 73 from Adelaide's west servicing in-home care needs of the elderly and disabled.

The app connects users with qualified carers who can arrive at their door within 15 to 30 minutes and stay as long as the client needs.

One such carer is Woodville North's Elizabeth Kuir, who signed up to Ubercare this month and says she enjoys the flexibility.

"I was attracted to being able to choose my own working hours, which is really important for me as I have three young children who require a lot of my time," she says.

"People use their phones for so many things now because they're so easy to use and convenient, so I definitely think people will embrace Ubercare."

App users can request a carer 24 hours a day, seven days a week and once a carer responds, a photo of the carer as well as a star-rating and estimated time of arrival will ap-

pear on the phone. All are screened to ensure they are qualified, insured and have all the necessary police checks.

Ubercare founder Simon Chappel says the app is not only providing South Australians with urgent care or assistance, but creating jobs.

"We've already screened and approved more than 400 carers in South Australia who have been attracted by the flexibility and the opportunities to work at times and in the areas convenient to them," he says.

"So in addition to helping our ageing population and easing the load on our health system, Ubercare is also creating hundreds of new jobs in South Australia."

The app, which has no affiliation with the ride-sharing company with which it shares part of its name, is being tested in South Australia. The Ubercare app is free and available to download now.



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Elizabeth Kuir has signed up to the Ubercare phone app system.

PICTURE: TAIT SCHMAAL