

Making the decision, caring for your loved one at home or in a facility.

If your loved one is living with dementia and you are struggling with the decision as to whether it is better to care for them at home or to place them in a dementia care facility, we know that it is a difficult and emotional decision for you. We have put together some comparisons that will help you make the best decision for you and your loved ones, which we hope will put your mind at rest.

Their health and safety is first priority

A person with dementia needs almost round the clock care and if you are not trained you may not recognise the subtle symptoms of ill health in your loved one. In a dementia care facility like Livewell there is a nursing team that keeps a close eye on the residents, who will make the appropriate referrals to specialists for specific health concerns.

Private homes are also not equipped to handle certain medical emergencies, which can cause you to feel anxious. You may worry that, in the case of an emergency, that an ambulance or medical help may take too long. In our suites there is a built in emergency alert system as well as CCTV security cameras and staff 24/7 to ensure that your loved one is safe and close to help at all times.

Nurturing a healthy body and mind

It is as important to provide dementia sufferers with an environment where they have autonomy and respect as well as their essentials taken care of, such as proper nourishment and exercise. Often, when continuing to live at home, loved ones quickly succumb to loneliness and boredom as they do not have as much access to stimulation. In our care, your loved one will be encouraged to participate in daily exercise and be taken on outings or to appointments via our transport services.

Monitoring daily food intake in a care facility is far better for loved ones than relying on them to cater for themselves, as they sometimes forget to eat and their nutrition goes largely neglected. At Livewell we provide table service, freshly prepared cuisine, weight management and ensure that our residents are properly hydrated.

It can be incredibly difficult to manage your own life around that of your loved one, especially if you have a full-time job or a family to take care of. You may worry that they are not getting enough social interaction while being cared for from home. At Livewell spontaneous socialisation frequently occurs as residents form a close community, sharing meals and activities together.

If you would like to know more about life at Livewell for your loved one, please contact us.

Caring for your loved one at home vs. placing them in a facility.

Care challenge	Caring at home	Livewell
Social Life	Visits are dependent on many factors including daily routines, existing engagements and transport. Maintaining everyday life and societal expectations can become challenging.	Spontaneous socialisation frequently occurs as residents are within close proximity to each other. Socialisation is encouraged through shared activities and meals.
Transportation	There is a reliance on others' availability to get to and from appointments and events or the person with dementia may still believe that they can drive alone and this poses a great safety risk.	Livewell schedules car or bus trips for the residents. Companions are allowed to accompany their loved ones to appointments and outings.
Needed Health Care	The person living at home will not be able to refer themselves to needed specialists which may result in symptoms of ill health being ignored or not recognised.	The nursing team keeps a close eye on residents and will make the appropriate referrals to specialists to address specific health concerns.
Dining	Living at home may mean that the person eats alone. They may forget to eat and the importance of nutrition is largely neglected.	Dining with others, table service, freshly prepared cuisine, accommodations for many special diets, weight management and assurance of hydration are all taken care of at Livewell.
Home Management	There can sometimes be difficulty in keeping the home clean. Clothing care becomes a challenge as well as basic shopping and running errands.	Housekeeping, linen service and maintenance are provided by professional staff.
Emergency Assistance	Homes are not equipped with emergency protocol or devices. Families face anxiety over security and how long assistance will take when needed.	An emergency alert system is built into each suite. Staff is available 24/7 including CCTV security cameras.
Exercise	Daily exercise should be encouraged. A sedentary lifestyle can quickly occur as it is usually associated with loneliness and boredom in older people.	Livewell offers daily exercise and walks. Activities such as yoga, croquet, bowls, swing-ball and weekly hikes are also offered to encourage exercise.
Independence	Loved ones have more independence in their own home compared to a care facility, but at times this also poses a risk and the person cannot keep up with the daily demands or keep making the best decisions for living independently.	Support is given by care providers and other staff members. The appropriate amount of assistance will be decided by the family, therapist and the health care manager at Livewell.
Decision Making	At home the person is given the freedom to make their own (possibly weak) decisions and have their own routine.	At Livewell we have a structured routine, but we understand the importance of autonomy and respect it at all times.