



Print, Scan & Label Solutions for Aged Care Facilities



\ The new era of aged care in Australia

You don't need a crystal ball to see where Australia's aged care sector is headed. With an eye on process improvement and digitisation, new government regulations are pressuring aged care providers to implement solutions that bridge glaring technology gaps across the industry.

Citing a substandard quality of care, the government launched the Royal Commission on Aged Care Quality and Safety in October 2018. Three years later, the Commission released its findings.

“Aged care is well behind other industries in the use of technology”

According to the [Final Report](#), aged care is well behind other industries in the use of technology, and should begin implementing new strategies to remedy this issue. At the same time, facilities are struggling to improve workforce productivity, keep costs down and cut back on costly human errors that could hinder the care they deliver.

Fortunately, there are tangible ways to introduce new technology into the aged care sector in a seamless, cost-effective manner. This eBook will provide insight into how Brother solutions can assist aged care facilities in embracing digital transformation. Learn about cutting-edge technologies that empower professionals to meet industry standards and streamline operational processes.



\ Types of aged care

When it comes to introducing new technologies to Australia's various aged care environments, it's best to dig a little deeper into the types of care on offer. Stripping the industry down into each type of care may help providers understand where to implement digital solutions.

Broadly speaking, the aged care system in Australia can be broken down into four categories:

1

Self-sufficient: Independent living services for seniors who can live on their own, but with the benefit of available assistance when needed. For instance, self-sufficient Australians may live on their own but require help with cooking, in which case they may receive meals from their care provider.

2

Retirement living: For retirees who are still independent, but want to live in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Retirement centres offer amenities that help residents live their days with a high standard of living, such as on-site meals, social activities and day trips.

3

Respite care: Short-term care may include residential or in-home services. This option offers caretakers a break from the responsibility of supporting a senior loved one with the comfort that they're still receiving the care and championship they need.

4

High-care: A residential service provided to seniors who may be bedridden, have complex medical needs, incapable of living alone or at risk of being seriously injured on their own.



\ The importance of labelling solutions in aged care

Though each setting has its unique challenges, all stand to gain from the application of new technologies. One common denominator among all types of aged care is the need for durable, legible and reliable [labelling solutions](#).

For instance, self-sufficient seniors may still receive meals from their care provider. In this case, meal containers must be correctly and accurately labelled with the necessary information. For example, names, dietary requirements, etc.

On the other end of the spectrum, high-care seniors share a facility with many other residents. That means they need their clothing and belongings organised and correctly identified.

Crucially, their respective medications should be labelled and not mistakenly accessed or delivered to the wrong resident, which can be a risk to health, safety and privacy. The Department of Health and Aged Care developed [15 guiding principles](#) for medication management in residential facilities, including the administration, storage and disposal of medications according to industry best practice.

Seniors of all kinds receive medical assistance. Many go through regular blood testing and laboratory procedures. These require labels that can withstand exposure to chemicals and extreme temperatures — both of which are part of the diagnostic process.



Medication - keep out of reach of children
Idrodaphine - 200MG
Take 2 capsules every day after eating
Prescribed: 29/04/2013
Consult your GP if any adverse symptoms occur

\ Durable aged care label solutions

Brother provides aged care facilities with reliable, effective tools to meet their complex labelling needs. The [PT-P900W](#) label printer, for instance, is a professional desktop device that can be used on the go with a battery base attachment.

This device prints labels from 3.5mm right up to 36mm in width. Additionally, it comes with free access to Brother's [P-touch Editor](#) label design software so you can create labels according to your specifications. For example, you can print larger labels for greater legibility where retirees need them, such as on equipment or their personal belongings. With fast print speeds and the ability to link to spreadsheets and .csv files, printing is quick and easy.

Also, the PT-P900W supports [fade-resistant laminated labels](#), which are tested against extreme conditions, including water, UV light, temperature, and chemicals.

Because they're wash and chemical-resistant, TZe tapes are ideal for meal containers and personal belongings that need to endure a regular wash cycle. Plus, with long-lasting adhesion, you can rest assured that critical label applications won't fail.







\ How wristbands aid aged care facilities

Patient identification is one of the most important workflows in the [healthcare industry](#), and the aged care sector is no different. Whether it be in a residential or a short-term care facility, wristbands help allied health professionals keep tabs on the seniors they're sworn to protect.

“Aged care providers require wristbands to safely identify residents.”

In a high-care facility, aged care providers require wristbands to safely identify residents. They also use barcoded (or QR-coded) wristbands to quickly obtain

medical information during a visit, check-in or health emergency. By scanning the wristband, staff can access their electronic health record and the resident's file.

Even self-sufficient seniors rely on wristbands. When they embark on day trips and excursions such as a social outing or doctor's appointment, wristbands and/or name badges ensure they're always accounted for.

A [thermal wristband and label printer](#) like Brother's [TD-2125NWB](#) is ideal for aged care environments. With the ability to print a barcoded wristband, providers can always keep line of sight on high-care residents and improve traceability.



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\ Digitising your aged care facility

Aged care providers usually leverage a rotating staff of doctors and health professionals. Many of them leave paper trails as they come and go, including important medical forms and documents that contain pertinent health information. Ideally, these documents are scanned and stored into an [EHR or EMR](#).

Unfortunately, many aged care providers have yet to reach that level of digital maturity. In fact, [40% of providers](#) hadn't implemented a digital clinical system

by 2020. Paper-based workflows make it difficult to digitise records, which is important because critical health data becomes more accessible to residents and physicians alike.

Furthermore, paper-based processes mean it's tough to retrieve medical records in a timely fashion. This can complicate and delay essential workflows, not to mention put aged care facilities at risk of violating strict data retention regulations.







\ How to optimise your digital journey

Brother's Multi-Function Centres (MFCs) can help aged care facilities close their digital divide with speed and confidence. The Colour Laser Multi-Function Printer [MFC-L8690CDW](#) and Monochrome Multi-Function Printer [MFC-L5755DW](#), for example, both streamline the digitisation process with high-speed duplex scanning. And, with dozens of custom one-touch shortcuts, administrative staff at aged care facilities can spend less time scanning medical information and patient data, focusing more on their day-to-day operations.

Connecting to [Optical Character Recognition](#) (OCR) software also allows staff to easily capture medical information and transform their paper documents

into actionable, searchable data. This cuts down on time needed to retrieve information, compile reports and deliver quality care to residents. Additionally, it makes it easier for allied health professionals to access critical data at the point of care, whether it be in a residential facility or an in-home service.

These all-in-one printers are perfect for the high-volume requirements of an aged care facility. Both are [Cerner-certified](#) and can easily scale as facilities grow over time. This is especially significant given that Australia's elderly population is [projected to skyrocket 54% by 2041](#).



\ How Brother devices improve workflow efficiency for aged care homes

Australia's aged care industry is at a crucial stage in its development. With the government, regulators and the public expecting the industry to improve its processes, aged care facilities need innovative and practical solutions.

Fortunately, Brother is committed to delivering exactly that. Whether they're durable label tapes and reliable printers or streamlined digitisation and data capture tools, our technologies are ideal for meeting the requirements of a modern aged care provider.

Learn more about how Brother can streamline workflows at your aged care facility by [contacting us today](#).

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