

Cup full of kindness

DYSPHAGIA, or the inability to easily swallow, affects a surprising number of people.

As many as one in three people aged over 65 suffer from the condition.

Many elderly and terminally ill people need to be slowly spoon fed by a carer because of the condition. Dehydration and malnutrition can be the devastating effects of dysphagia.

Now Brisbane company Flavour Creations has manufactured Australia's first dysphagia cup.

The company – an international pioneer in specialised dietary products – pumped more than \$6 million into the cup's research and development over the past three years.

Founder and managing director Bernadette Eriksen, said the company had spent seven years perfecting the design, which complements its range of



FUTURISTIC DESIGN – The new dysphagia cup.

nutritionally dense ready-to-drink foods.

"On a nutritional level our range of 29 flavours of ready-to-drink products are unrivalled due to their ability to increase the rates of hydration and decrease incidences of malnutrition for patients suffering from dysphagia," she said.

The cup has an angled shape that allows the contents to be sipped without tilting the head,

which is a necessary postural adjustment for people with dysphagia.

It also has a suitable diameter, curvature, ribbed sides and indentations for ease of holding. The large foil lid has external ribbing and an embossed texture to assist with manual grip.

The cup will be distributed to hospitals, residential aged care and those living at home both in Australia and internationally from next month.

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