

Symposium Title

Translating research into practice - challenges and opportunities

B Squires¹ (Symposium Chair), M Carroll² (Second Chair)

¹ General Manager, Ageing, The Benevolent Society, Paddington, NSW

² Program Manager, ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well, Concord, NSW

Paper 1: Glenn Rees

Paper 2: Sarah Fogg, Jarrah Hoffman-Ekstein

Paper 3: Gill Lewin, Nelly Newall

There is a growing focus on the importance of translating research into policy and practice. This can be seen in national research funding programs focussed on partnerships with industry, policy and end-users and major developments such as the Dementia Health Priority Initiative which seeks to integrate research, policy, care, and support.

This symposium will provide reflections on translational activities from three perspectives: a national stakeholder organisation involved in the dementia initiative; a collaboration aimed at delivering learnings from research to care workers; and from a leading researcher located at the interface between research and practice.

The first paper by Glenn Rees will provide insight into the different approaches to knowledge transfer used by Alzheimer's Australia, highlighting the successes, challenges and future developments.

Sarah Fogg will discuss the collaboration between The Benevolent Society and the University of New South Wales Social Policy Research Centre which is producing accessible research briefing papers aimed at informing the practice of community care workers.

Gill Lewin will discuss the difficulties in sustaining changes in practice when you have translated research into practice. Gill will illustrate these issues using the example of an evaluation of changes in clinical practice guidelines for Silver Chain home care clients.

The papers will be followed by an extended discussion session highlighting the challenges and opportunities of research translation and possible future directions. The discussion will include a brief report from Matthew Carroll on the joint effort by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well, Aged and Community Services Australia and the Australian Association of Gerontology to build a community care research agenda informed by the needs of industry.

This symposium is being sponsored by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well.