

After the Research Network in Ageing Well

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Network in Ageing Well**

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Overview

- 1. Momentum for Ageing Research**
- 2. ARC/NHMRC Research Network**
- 3. Next Steps? (forward discussion)**



1a Challenges for Ageing Research?

- Value for older people and an ageing Australia
- Connecting Research to Action (for whom?)
- Larger Scale, Internationally Connected
- Multi-disciplinary approaches
(in disciplines-focused Universities)
- Ensuring quality – attract and nurture the best

- Individual and Team Research?
- And where are the next generation of researchers?



1b Healthy Ageing Review Recommendations 2000 (2002)

- **Ageing Research Priority**
Australian Research Council and
National Health and Medical Research Council
- **A National Institute and Dedicated Research Funding Program**
- **A Network of State Centres**
- **Longitudinal Studies**
- **Commonwealth-State Action?**



1c International Initiatives: Glimpses and Comments

- United Nations and International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics – Research Agendas
- Canadian Research Professorships, Research Programs, and Longitudinal Survey from 2008
- US: National Institute on Aging, Health and Retirement Survey
- European Framework Programmes on Ageing
- UK Dynamics of Ageing Research Program to 2014



1e National Strategy for an Ageing Australia An Older Australia

The Hon Kevin Andrews, MP, Minister for Ageing, 2002

'Research will underpin the National Strategy for an Ageing Australia and fine tune its implementation.

We need to understand and reassess what is happening as the population ages.

A good evidence base will support the policy and administrative decisions that will need to be made by a broad range of individuals and organisations.' pxi



1f Building Ageing Research Capacities (BARC)

- Convened by the (now) Office for an Ageing Australia with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
- A Strategic Framework for Ageing Research (eg Research Agenda for an Ageing Australia)
- Included leading researchers, AAG, and government departments
- Convened a national ageing research conference in 2002 and (with the Research Network) the 2006 Policy Colloquium
- Manages Ageing Research Online (www.aro.gov.au)



1g Australian Research Priorities

- Ageing well, ageing productively

Developing better social, medical and population health strategies to improve the mental and physical capacities of ageing people (Australian National Research Priority Goal, 2003)

- A Vision 'An additional 10 years of healthy and productive life expectancy by 2050' (Prime Minister's Science, Engineering, and Industry Council, 2003)

[and research agenda recommendations]



1h NHMRC/ARC Ageing Well, Ageing Productively \$10M 2006-2011

Working Longer: Policy Reforms and Practice Innovations (Piggott)

Predictors of ageing well in the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health and the Perth Health in Men Study (Dobson)

Gene-Environment interaction in healthy brain ageing and related neurodegeneration (Sachdev)

Using health outcome data from pooled longitudinal studies of ageing to determine how to best compress morbidity and optimise healthy and productive ageing (Anstey)

Management Strategies to address poly-morbidity in older people (Gilbert)

Examining a core assumption of policy and services for older Indigenous Australians (Condon)



1i Additional Research Initiatives

- **Dementia Research Grants (and Centres) Program 2006-2010**
- **NHMRC Health Services and Partnership Grants**
- **NHMRC Preventive Health Care & Strengthening Australia's Social and Economic Fabric Research Grants**
- **ARC Linkages Grants and**
 - **developed with a Partner organisation**
 - **long-term strategic research alliances**
 - **national economic or social benefits**



2a The ARC-NHMRC Research Network Grants Program

- Aim to enhance **the scale and focus** of national research activity, stimulate **innovation**, and support researchers to **connect** with others and to policy and practice.
- To identify and address **areas of strength, opportunity or need** ... make a significant contribution to national wealth &/or well-being.
- Funding up to **\$500,000 p. yr 2005-2009**
(plus University matches of cash and in-kind)



2b Ageing Well Network Objectives

- To lead and facilitate **collaboration** in **multi-disciplinary, large scale** research
- To facilitate **international** research involvement
- To build **capacities and excellence** in ageing studies through support and mentoring
- To **enable communication** among researchers in setting agendas, proposals, accessing data
- To involve **key constituencies** (community, government, and industry)
- To **translate research** findings to inform actions



2c ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well Resources to 'Add value'

Sydney Hub: National Convenor (.3), Network Manager (1.0), and Admin Officer (.6)

Theme/state hubs: .4 support person each
(Theme convenors are University researchers)

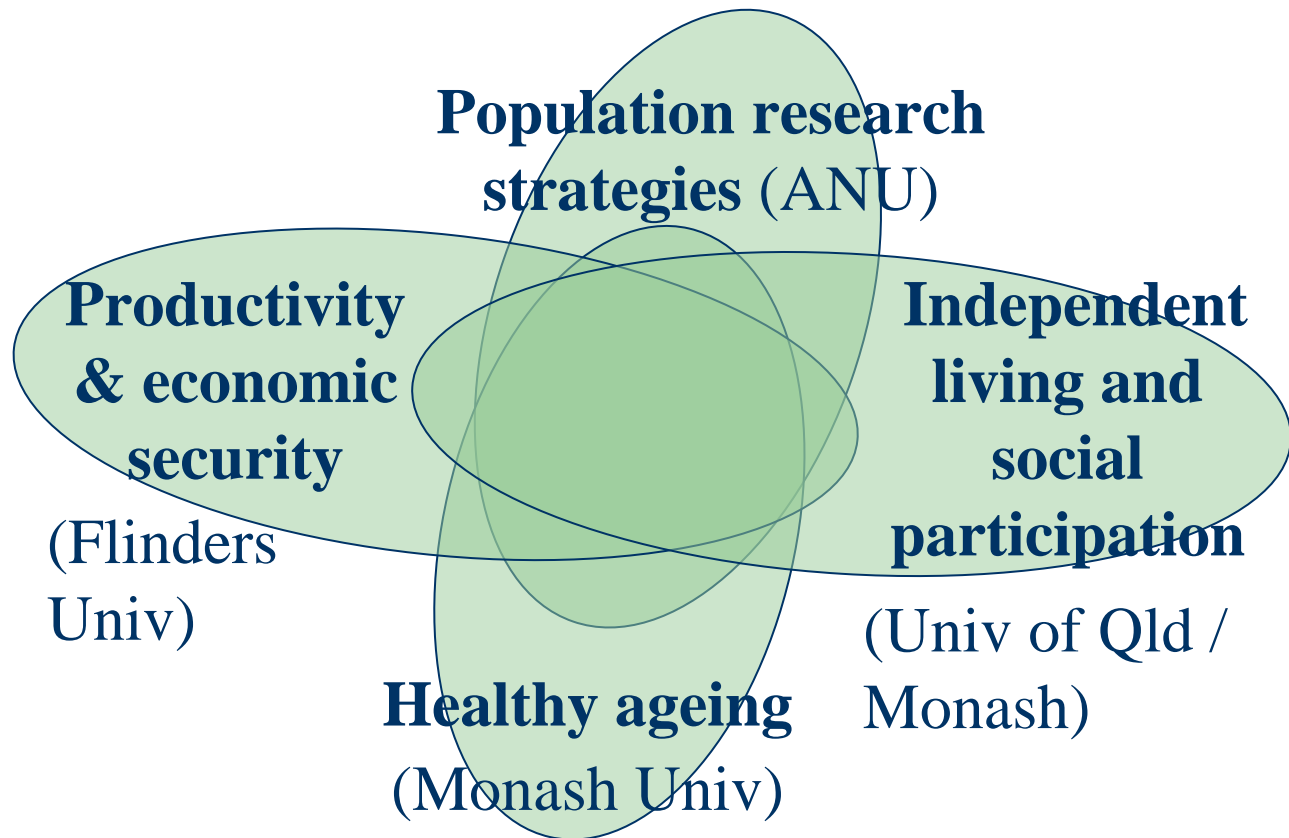
'Bringing People together'

travel, visitors, workshop organisation etc

Flexibly adding value for (but not doing research)



2d Thematic Areas





2e Management and Advisory Group

50 (now 60) Participants and more than 500 members

**Management Committee: Theme and State Convenors
(Anstey, Bartlett, Boldy, Broe, Browning, Healy,
Parker, Luszcz, Richardson)**

Advisory Group (mainly Peak Bodies including AAG)

Barbara Squires Chair

**Advise on workplan and connections (eg, consumer
involvement in research)**



2f Proposal development support

- **Criteria: large scale, multi-disciplinary, national priorities, multi-institutional, involve older people & international collaborators**
- **E,g ARC-NHMRC Ageing Well, Ageing Productively funding proposals strategy**
- **Enabling international partnerships**



2g Adding Resources for Researchers (value & efficiency)

- **State hubs for partnership building**
- **Theme workshops and review papers**
- **Ageing Well Data Archive**
- **Methodological Workshops (notably ANU)**
- **International Visitors (eg Simon Biggs)**
- **Joint seminars and conferences**
- **Website and Newsletter**



2h Network Activities/Support for Emerging Researchers (thanks Helen)

- Annual Conference for Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA)
- Mentoring scheme
- Workshops/Master classes e.g. grant writing/publication
- National and International networking
- Newsletter/website



3a Directions: The Ageing Research Challenge for Australia

- Produced by the Network with the AAG
- Prepared by Hal Kendig, Matthew Carroll, Diane Gibson, Leon Flicker, Barbara Squires, and Laurie Buys
- Reviewed by:
 - Network Management Committee & Advisory Group
 - AAG Council
 - Biomedical and geriatric medicine researchers



3b ARCA Recommendations

Research Questions

- Population Ageing, health, and frailty
- Better Health and Care Services
- Population Ageing and Productivity
- Population Ageing and communities

Organisation and Elements

- Canberra convening point & State topic area hubs
- A dedicated research funding program



3c Big Issues and Directions

- Building a Vision of Ageing Well
- Building Coalitions for development
- Advocacy for Investing in Research
- Can Older People Provide a Lead?
- Will Ageing Research Become Mainstream?



3d The Network Completion

- www.ageingwell.edu.au to December 2009
- A final report by mid 2010
- Special acknowledgement
 - Dr Matthew Carroll, Network Manager
 - Donna McDaniel, Acting Senior Project Officer
- The AAG as a leading advocate for moving the Ageing Research Agenda ahead