

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
RESEARCH—NETWORKS
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING COMMENCING IN 2004



Project ID: RN0460007

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Total number of sheets contained in this application	
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PART A—ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

A1 ORGANISATION TO ADMINISTER GRANT

Name

The University of Sydney

A2 PROJECT TITLE

ARC Research Network in Ageing Well

A3 PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

Person number	Family name	Initials	Organisation	Role
1	Kendig	HL	The University of Sydney	NC
2	Bartlett	HP	The University of Queensland	NP
3	Browning	CJ	La Trobe University	NP
4	Healy	JM	The Australian National University	NP
5	Richardson	S	The Flinders University of South Australia	NP
6	Boldy	DP	Curtin University of Technology	NP
7	Gibson	D	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	NP
8	Luszcz	MA	The Flinders University of South Australia	NP
9	Andrews	G	University of South Australia	NP
10	Anstey	K	The Australian National University	NP
11	Banks	E	The Australian National University	NP
12	Braithwaite	J	The Australian National University	NP
13	Broe	GA	The University of New South Wales	NP
14	Budge	MM	The Australian National University	NP
15	Butler	JR	The Australian National University	NP
16	Byles	J	The University of Newcastle	NP
17	Celler	BG	The University of New South Wales	NP
18	Clark	M	The Flinders University of South Australia	NP
19	Clemson	L	The University of Sydney	NP
20	Cumming	RG	The University of Sydney	NP
21	Earle	L	University of the Sunshine Coast	NP
22	Fiatarone-Singh	MA	The University of Sydney	NP
23	Gray	LC	The University of Queensland	NP
24	Edwards	H	Queensland University of Technology	NP
25	Glasgow	NJ	The Australian National University	NP
26	Harding	AM	University of Canberra	NP
27	Hesketh	BL	The University of Sydney	NP
28	Gregory	RG	The Australian National University	NP
29	Hensher	DA	The University of Sydney	NP
30	Hugo	GJ	The University of Adelaide	NP

31	Jackson	NO	University of Tasmania	NP
32	Lopez	A	The University of Queensland	NP
33	McCallum	J	University of Western Sydney	NP
34	McDonald	PF	The Australian National University	NP
35	McNeil	JJ	Monash University	NP
36	Minichiello	V	The University of New England	NP
37	Mitchell	DA	The Australian National University	NP
38	Ozanne	EA	The University of Melbourne	NP
39	Pachana	NA	The University of Queensland	NP
40	Piggott	JR	The University of New South Wales	NP
41	Quine	S	The University of Sydney	NP
42	Rosenman	L	The University of Queensland	NP
43	Saunders	PG	The University of New South Wales	NP
44	Seedsman	T	Victoria University of Technology	NP
45	Stimson	RJ	The University of Queensland	NP
46	Thomas	SA	La Trobe University	NP
47	De Vaus	DA	La Trobe University	NP
48	Wilson	JE	The University of Queensland	NP
49	Wooden	MP	The University of Melbourne	NP
50	Worrall	LE	The University of Queensland	NP

A5 SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS

A5.1 Summary of Project

The ARC Research Network on Ageing Well will support interdisciplinary, high quality research in the National Research Priority Goal of Ageing Well, Ageing Productively. It will build scale and focus on Australia's notable research strengths in ageing, promote collaborative research, and extend research capacities. The Network will link outstanding researchers from many disciplines, nurture developing researchers, relate social to health researchers, strengthen international collaboration, and involve and inform end-point users. It will foster research which responds to the aspirations and needs of older Australians and informs action that can improve experiences of individual and population ageing.

A5.2 Summary of National/Community Benefit (For Public Purposes)

The *National Strategy for an Ageing Australia* (2002) calls for planning underpinned by research to prepare for an ageing Australia. Research by network participants will inform actions to achieve the vision of ‘an additional 10 years of healthy and productive life expectancy by 2050’ (Prime Minister’s PMSEIC report *Promoting Healthy Ageing in Australia*, 2002). It also will inform ways to limit the economic costs and public expenditure for the large baby boom’s entry into later life (*Intergenerational Report*, Treasury, 2002). The Network’s long term success will be judged by the extent to which older people lead healthier, happier, more independent, and more socially connected lives and make fewer demands on the younger generation.

A5.3 Network URL

www.ageingwell.edu.au

A6 National Research Priorities

National Research Priority	Priority Goals
Promoting and Maintaining Good Health	Ageing well, ageing productively

A7 CLASSIFICATIONS AND OTHER STATISTICAL INFORMATION

A7.1 Keywords

Ageing well
Independent living and social participation
Active lifestyle

Productivity and economic security
Health and wellbeing
Population dynamics

A7.2 Research classifications

Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD)	%
389999	40
370102	30
370501	30

Socio-Economic Objective (SEO)	%
730203	50
750304	30
720404	20

A7.3 If the proposed research involves international collaboration, please specify country/ies.

USA	UK	Canada
NZ	Japan	Germany

D1 CASE FOR THE NETWORK

1. SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

Ageing is one of the most significant challenges facing Australia. For the first time in history, the average person can look forward to a substantial period of later life where they can expect reasonable health and decades --not just years-- in retirement. At age 60 years, most Australians have retired from paid work yet women can expect another 25 years of life and men another 20 years. The massive baby boom cohort will live even longer and they will profoundly change the older population over coming decades; the first 'babyboomers' turn 60 years in 2005. If current migration and fertility patterns remain unchanged, nearly all of Australia's population growth to 2051 will be in the age group 50 years and over. By mid Century one out of every four Australians is projected to be aged 65 years or older. Australia will be transforming its national identity, attitudes, and institutions from being a young to an ageing society.

The challenges of an ageing Australia have been underscored by the influential *Intergenerational Report* (Treasury, 2002) projecting the economic costs of population ageing and some implications for public expenditure and for taxpayers. The Prime Minister's PMSEIC report *Promoting Healthy Ageing in Australia* (2002) set a research agenda to pursue the vision of 'an additional 10 years of healthy and productive life expectancy by 2050'. The *National Strategy for an Ageing Australia* (2002) notes the major contributions made by older people, the opportunities they have them and society, and policy choices in planning for an ageing Australia. The National Research Priority 'Ageing Well, Ageing Productively' recognises that research is essential to inform pro-active, constructive responses to an ageing society.

The ARC Research Network on Ageing Well builds on accelerating developments in inter-disciplinary research on ageing in Australia and an increased emphasis on ageing in established areas of research strength. It will provide an inter-disciplinary national network on ageing research, as recommended by the PMSEIC Report that is linked to and informed by the end-users of research. It will add to Australia's existing research efforts in ageing scale, scope, focus and novel connections between researchers in a range of disciplines, and with decision-makers. During the seed funding stage, our Network has added strong Participants (particularly in the health area and from three pilot networks that merged with us); defined strong relationships with constituency groups; established our governance structures; and defined our initial strategies and programs. Further information on our research directions, participants, and background information is available on our website www.ageingwell.edu.au.

Summary

The ARC Research Network on Ageing Well will support and generate interdisciplinary, high quality research on individual and population ageing. It will do so on a scale and with a focus that would not be possible without the Network. It will concentrate on the priority knowledge areas of Productivity and Economic Security, Independent Living and Social Participation, Healthy Ageing, and Population Research Strategies. It will build on Australia's notable research strengths on ageing, actively promote new forms of collaborative research, and extend and deepen research capacities. With emphases on excellence and the future, the Network will link outstanding researchers from many disciplines, nurture developing researchers, relate social to health researchers, strengthen international collaboration, and involve and inform end-point users. The Network will foster research that responds to the aspirations and needs of older Australians and informs individual and social action that can improve experiences of individual and population ageing. The Network will judge its long term success by the extent to which older people are in future healthier, happier, more independent, more socially connected and less of a burden on the younger generation than they would otherwise have been.

Objectives

The central objective of the Network is to initiate research that is of a quality, scale and impact that is beyond the reach of current research structures. The driving motivation for the research is to improve the quality of life of older people, and to diminish the demands they place on those who follow them. Australia already has high quality research in ageing. But it can do much better. The Network will lift the level of ageing research by energizing existing researchers, by drawing in substantial new talent to research on ageing, by establishing new and creative links between researchers in different disciplines and between researchers and end-users, by being the focus for international collaborations, and by self-consciously fostering the next generation of researchers in the field.

It will do these things by:

- **Leading and facilitating collaboration** in inter-disciplinary, ambitious research projects that significantly advance knowledge in high priority topics for actions addressing an ageing Australia.
- **Providing a focal point for Australian involvement in international research of excellence on ageing** including Australian contributions to international knowledge and the involvement of international research leaders in Australian ageing studies.
- **Building capacities and quality** in inter-disciplinary studies on ageing through developing and mentoring new scholars, and linking, supporting and inspiring established researchers to step outside their normal intellectual range to collaborate in new and sometimes risky ways.
- **Promoting efficiencies** among researchers in making best use of existing data, expertise, funding, and other information and resources.
- **Involving key constituencies** (community, government, and industry) with researchers in the two-way development of ageing research agendas and application of findings in practice and policy and dissemination to the public.

The Network's progress would be indicated in a number of ways, including: number of new PhD students and completed PhDs in ageing; number of postdoctoral researchers in ageing; track record development of early career researchers; ARC, NHMRC and other competitive grants awarded; new national and international collaborations; government and other research partnerships; publication rate in high impact refereed journals; and network register members. An evaluation framework for monitoring these indicators would be developed and results communicated via the website.

2. NETWORKING STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS

The ARC Research Network in Ageing Well will articulate closely with, extend, and focus resources and facilities for ageing research in Universities, governments and research-related associations. In the language of the PMSEIC report, it will address discovery, translational, and technology agendas in healthy ageing research. As outlined below, the Network strategies will operate through Thematic Area groups, Network Programs, State hubs, and a Central Network Hub (including communication and outreach programs as per 'D1.4' below).

In all of these strategies, the Network will foster a deepening 'age awareness' among researchers in a wide range of disciplines, fields, and methodologies. Ageing, older people, and life course perspectives must be seen as central dimensions to many areas of social, economic, behavioural, and biomedical and health research. In turn, ageing research needs to relate to other significant topics that require an interdisciplinary focus such as indigenous Australians, migrants and cultural diversity, and the impact of rural and remote location. We will specifically examine ways of developing collaborative ventures (possibly with other networks) to examine ageing in indigenous and migrant communities. While facilitating these wider developments, the Network will concentrate on supporting interdisciplinary research of excellence focused on topics of ageing

research of national importance. It will take advantage of its scale to initiate some potentially high return research that is too risky for a less ambitious grouping to attempt.

Theme Areas and Working Group Processes will provide the primary intellectual drive and organisational cornerstone for generating and supporting research agendas. The Theme Areas (and the University node to lead them) are Productivity and Economic Security (Flinders University); Independent Living and Social Participation (University of Queensland); Healthy Ageing (La Trobe University); and Population Research Strategies (Australian National University). These four areas are at the core of wellbeing for an ageing Australia. They demand interdisciplinary, innovative research; they are related closely to the priority information needs for an ageing Australia identified in the major reports referred to in D1.1 above; they encompass substantial research strengths and opportunities for Australia (D1.3 below); and our participants have strong track records for addressing key questions in these topic areas (D3.3). Researchers will work flexibly within and across (often several) themes. Within and across the themes we will explore diversity in terms of gender; culture and migration; social, economic, and physical environments; and disadvantages and processes of marginalisation.

Theme Areas will facilitate leading edge, inter-disciplinary, large scale investigations on topics of major national importance. They will facilitate collaboration among Australia's top researchers, international partners, emerging researchers, and constituency groups. Theme Conveners and Co-Conveners (D1.5 below) will set directions and assess proposals for collaboration on the basis of academic value, topic importance, and likely research gains including prospects for achieving research funding. These efforts can identify key questions, consider methodologies and innovation, identify research opportunities, develop large scale proposals, and/or stimulate interdisciplinary analyses of available data. They will be resourced mainly for communication (teleconferences and travel) and modest research and administrative support.

Special interest groups on specific topics (eg information technology, rural communities, etc) will be convened by smaller groupings of researchers as opportunities and needs arise.

Each Theme Area will convene an **annual workshop** of interested researchers, with flexible movement of researchers across research areas and specific topics within them. To build connections with related areas, the first round of these workshops are planned in association with the Australian Economic Society (Productivity and Economic Resources); Australian Population Association (Population Research Strategies), Public Health Association of Australia and the Australian Psychological Society (Healthy Ageing), and the Australian Association of Gerontology (Independent Living and Social Participation).

The 'strategic, basic' research approach to be taken by the four theme areas will follow 'best practice' research agenda setting processes of the UK Social Research Council and the US National Institute on Aging. The Network will further **develop models and case studies** demonstrating ways ahead for collaborative research in the ageing area.

Data Strategies of the Network will significantly strengthen and extend Australian research capacities in ageing. These strategies, which will be lead by the ANU node, will articulate closely with the four theme areas (above) in terms of their research agendas, information needs, and Network Participants.

The Network will establish a **Data Archive on Older Australians** that offers storage, management and access to good data collections within the ANU Australian Social Science Data Archive. This central data archive will increase the efficiency of ageing research and the availability of quality data. It will encourage the principle of public domain databases, facilitate further analysis of existing data, provide technical assistance, and promote the future collection of comparable data based on common sampling frames and common instruments. The initial emphasis of the Archive will be to construct an inventory of age-related survey data already in Australian archives (many of which are not specific to older people); to add major Australian longitudinal surveys of ageing (see D3), and to enhance Australian access to international Archives on Ageing Data maintained at the University of Michigan with support from the US National Institute of Aging.

The Network's **longitudinal research strategy**, also led by the ANU Node, will have two components. First, it will facilitate the collaborative inter-disciplinary analysis of existing

Australian longitudinal data to address critical research questions set by the Theme Areas. The Network will fund careful review of existing longitudinal surveys, data file assembly, and expert statistical advice for users. Inter-disciplinary, longitudinal research is important because it can identify key factors that are amenable to intervention to achieve positive outcomes for ageing people (eg independence, productivity, mental competence and well-being). Influences on these outcomes can be explored in the areas of employment, family, and life style factors from late middle age onward as well as transitions involving retirement, wealth, family and health factors.

The second longitudinal research strategy will be to consider ways to build on existing and planned longitudinal studies in Australia particularly to illuminate the ageing 'trajectories' being set by Australia's large, post-war baby boomer generation. This generation will drive Australian ageing policies in relation to retirement incomes, independence, health costs and aged care. The Network will actively explore the possibilities of building international collaboration in conducting longitudinal research on this cohort. It also will actively explore the bio-psycho-social approaches that hold much promise for understanding processes of ageing and opportunities for interventions. The Research Network is beginning this work by reviewing the international literature to evaluate which questions have been answered in cohort studies of older populations and which remain to be answered that are of particular relevance to Australia.

The Emerging Researchers Strategies - including quality mentoring and opportunities for collaboration with experts - is crucial to the next generation of leaders in ageing research and it will be a priority throughout the Network's activities. Building on the pilot work at the University of Queensland, a survey of PhD students and recent graduates will be conducted to help understand their research career development needs. Support and training activities will include facilitating student exchange (national and international) with Senior Research collaborators, nurturing careers of young investigators, and providing assistance for travel to international centres of excellence. At UQ a summer school will be held each year for doctoral students (and their supervisors) in order to enhance inter-disciplinary exchange on ageing research, overcome academic isolation, and bring students into contact with leading national and international researchers, users of research, and representatives of funding bodies. Communication strategies (see below) will be especially beneficial for this development.

Methodological Skill Development is a priority for a number of reasons. Ageing research benefits from inter-method qualitative and quantitative methodologies and specialised expertise in understanding change over time, and multi-variate analysis of complex data sets. Researchers need to be aware of sensitivities and ethics when working with vulnerable individuals and communities. Methods workshops will be provided through the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI) as well as sessions at the annual Australian Association of Gerontology Congress. The first round of workshops will be at the ANU summer school (longitudinal survey analysis) and the UQ winter school (qualitative methods). Further, links will be established among methodological experts (national and international) to identify gaps and develop collaborative projects in developing measurement, research designs, and analytical methods needed for ageing research, particularly in the four priority theme areas for the Network. More broadly, participants in the Network will offer a methodological resource to support new research initiatives and proposals, offer opportunities for obtaining advice on research designs, and provide a forum for evaluating and disseminating research findings.

Funding Advocacy and Proposal Writing With ageing set as a national research priority, it is crucial that applicants submit high quality funding proposals and those barriers to conducting research are overcome. The Theme Area Conveners and State Hub Coordinators (see D1.5) will bring inter-disciplinary research teams together to write substantial, high priority proposals to the ARC and other funding bodies. We also will lead research proposal development sessions at academic and professional meetings in ageing. A high priority will be ARC Linkages partnerships that involve research expertise to meet the information needs of industries, governments, and older people themselves. The Network and Theme Conveners will pursue national funding from charitable and industry bodies as well as overseas funding for large scale, international collaborative efforts involving Australian researchers.

International Visitors The Network will bring one or two of our International Collaborators to Australia each year, linking them to priority development in our Theme areas. Where possible visitors will be invited jointly with the Australian Association of Gerontology or other national organisations related to ageing.

Information Strategies The Network hub at the University of Sydney is developing a sophisticated data base, website, and email dissemination capacity to keep researchers informed of Network activities as well as new developments in ageing research nationally and internationally. The Network will work closely with the AAG and government departments to ensure that it serves as a conduit (but will not duplicate) for information strategies by other organisations including the Ageing Statistics Unit of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Research On-Line, and the Ageing Statistics On-Line now under development.

State hubs and Theme Nodes will distribute information to researchers in comparable ways, for their specific areas of responsibility, in collaboration with relevant organisations. The Network will have a policy of forwarding to relevant organisations (but not independently producing) media releases and news on research publications (see D1.4. below)

State Collaboration Much decision making of relevance to an ageing population occurs at the State level. For this reason theme nodes (and hubs in WA and NSW) of the Network (D1.2 below) will work closely with the major state-based players, including Offices on Ageing. They will concentrate on information exchange and collaborative proposal development linking researchers from different disciplines and institutions to government departments, service providers, and organisations for older people.

3. RESEARCH STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Australian Universities have been significantly strengthening their capacities in ageing research. New Centres and Chairs are being established and major areas of disciplinary and methodological strength also are devoting more attention to ageing issues. The National Ageing Research Directory shows a substantial growth in the amount and quality of studies, publications, and funding. This expertise and experience, as detailed for our Participants in D3 below, provides a strong foundation on which the Network can build. A high proportion of Australia's current expertise in ageing is embraced within the Participant and Register membership of the Network. The Network will multiply the research productivity of existing researchers in a number of ways.

It will focus on promoting interdisciplinary collaborations. There will remain a proper scope for single discipline investigations, but these are likely to proceed satisfactorily without the special impetus of the Network. True interdisciplinary collaboration is potentially very fruitful: the issues of ageing are not a single discipline question. But it is also difficult and risky. The Network will be uniquely placed, because of its wide membership, to promote such collaboration. It will do so by consciously constructing opportunities for researchers and end-users from different backgrounds to meet around shared questions. It will run forums to develop better understanding of the pitfalls and potential of multidiscipline research, and to devise norms and protocols for effective collaboration. It will promote the excitement and breakthroughs in thinking that well-executed interdisciplinary research can generate.

The Network, led from both the central hub and from the theme nodes, will assemble teams of researchers and practitioners that are large enough to develop ambitious and important research proposals. Because it contains the leaders in ageing research in Australia together with a number of distinguished international collaborators, it will have the capacity to imagine the really important questions and to design research strategies to answer them. It will assist such proposals in their search for funding, by being a central source of information and contact on where potential funding lies, including with international sources. The size of the Network will enable it to promote a few high risk/high return projects without risks to its viability should the projects fail. It will increase the efficiency of the research effort by assembling, documenting and providing access to existing data sets, so that all the juice can be squeezed out of the data that exist before resources are called for to generate new data.

The ARC Ageing Well Research Network builds on concentrations of ageing research strength in academic units that can only be selectively highlighted here. At the hub of the *ARC Research Network Proposal on Ageing Well RN0460007*

Network at the University of Sydney, Ageing has been identified as an Institutional Research Strength (IRS), involving more than 75 researchers, and it is a priority area for research development with two further research-focused Professorial Chairs in ageing to be established this year. Sydney is well positioned for this leadership given that it is research-intensive, comprehensive, and international in outlook. The Centre for Education and Research on Ageing (CERA) serves as a focal point for bio-psycho-social research on health and applications. The NSW Institute of Health Research brings in expert researchers from across the State in activities including the design of the major NSW 45+ longitudinal study.

The Network's Population Research Strategies Theme is based at the Australian National University. In the Research School of Social Sciences, the Department of Demography is recognised internationally for its leadership in understanding the dynamics of population ageing and its Negotiating the Life Course Project. The National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health and the Centre for Mental Health Research add strengths in survey design and analysis. The Australian Social Sciences Data Archive (ASSDA) provides an outstanding base for storing and managing survey research data including samples of older people. At the University of Canberra the National Centre for Social and Economic Modeling (NATSEM) provides a data-based capacity to comprehensively assess and model the implications of an ageing Australia. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and its Ageing Unit provide a wealth of secondary data on older people and services and provides internationally leading expertise on data linkage.

The Network includes the Principal Investigators of Australia's leading inter-disciplinary, longitudinal surveys that include older people. They can make their valuable data available for further analyses and their expertise for designing a next generation of studies. These include the Australian Longitudinal Survey on Ageing (ALSA), the Dubbo Longitudinal Survey of Ageing, the Household and Income Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, the Melbourne Longitudinal Studies in Healthy Ageing program (MELSHA), the Sydney Older Persons' Study (SOPS), the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (WHA), the Path Through Life cohort studies of mental health, and the proposed '45 and up' NSW cohort study.

The cornerstones of the Productivity and Economic Security Theme are the National Institute of Labour Force Studies at Flinders University and the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. Both Centres have recognised excellence for quality research of direct relevance to policymaking. They are lead research groups in the domains of developments in the labour market, and the complexities of social welfare policy. Each also has strong links with policy makers and is skilled in policy-relevant research and the presentation of research findings. Labour markets, social welfare, and opportunities to apply social capital are central to the capacity of older people to have productive and financially secure lives. The Theme node will draw in additional Network member's expert in the complex area of financial strategies, instruments and protections for private provision of financial security, and health economics.

The Independence and Social Participation Theme is based at the Australasian Centre on Ageing established by the University of Queensland with support from the State government. The Centre is the focal point for a strong University-wide, inter-disciplinary commitment to ageing research. The Co-Convener from the Centre for Research into Aged Care Services at Curtin University provides strong links to the perspectives of service providers and expertise in aged care evaluation and planning. Participants throughout the Network add strengths in a wide variety of communities, attitudes towards ageing, intergenerational relationships, and information technologies.

The Healthy Ageing Theme is based at La Trobe University where the ARC Key Centre in Gerontology established ongoing research partnerships with the School of Public Health, the Department of Sociology, and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation as well as the Victorian Department of Human Services. Geriatric medical expertise is provided from five Universities across four States. Medical and psychological aspects of healthy ageing are strengthened by the Flinders Centre for Ageing Studies, the UNSW Ageing Research Centre, the ANU's Medical School and Centre for Mental Health Research, and the University of Newcastle's Centre for Research and Education in Ageing (CREA). The Network includes the research leaders of all these research centers.

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program offers major opportunities for future funding of ageing research. Professor John McNeil at Monash University, a Participant in our Network, is leading a major 'Healthy Ageing' CRC initiative involving other Network Members. Professor Hal Kendig is contributing an ageing component in a CRC on Sustainable Urban Environments being submitted by the NSW Western Health Service.

Our Network Participants have close connections to government research efforts as shown by our conduct of the Healthy Ageing Research Review (2001) (four Participants), participation in the Building Ageing Research Capacities (BARC) project (six of us), contribution to the PMSEIC Committee (four), and provision of expertise to the National Strategy for an Ageing Australia (substantial numbers). Leaders of our theme areas have deep connections with relevant Commonwealth Departments. The outstanding prospects for collaboration with State governments are evidenced by their resource commitment to working with us (D.5 below). Peak bodies representing older people and aged care have strong interests in research and a commitment to collaborate in research with us as well as serve on our Advisory Group (D5).

Our international collaborators and Australian leadership of the International Association of Gerontology (see Andrews and Luszc in D3 below) provide excellent prospects for research advances and funding support. The Growing Older research program in the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the European Economic Union (EEU) research programs provide outstanding opportunities for comparative studies and funding support. The US National Institute on Aging (NIA) has expressed interest in supporting an Australian extension to the landmark longitudinal Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), in a manner similar to their joint funding of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). These connections were strengthened at the international conference on longitudinal surveys 'The dynamic processes in ageing' sponsored by the Australian National University and Flinders University in September 2003 and involving leadership by participants of the Network.

4. NATIONAL BENEFITS, AND COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

For good reason, 'Ageing Well, Ageing Productively' is one of the four National Research Priorities, a component of which is 'Developing better social, medical and population health strategies to improve the mental and physical capacities of ageing people'. Substantial and growing support for applied research is provided by government departments as reflected in the Ageing Policy Research Agenda prepared as part of the BARC project. State Offices on Ageing are supporting applied research notably the national Positive Ageing Task Force and work on 'inter-sectoral' impacts of government on older people.). The newly established ARC/NHMRC Ageing Well, Ageing Productively Working Group will advise on funding research in this area.

The 2002 National Strategy for an Ageing Australia, states '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'. State Plans on ageing, and the Commonwealth-State Positive Ageing Task Force, have articulated similar needs for research. The Australian Association of Gerontology – and major constituency groups concerned with older people, aged care industries, and carers – have identified strongly their support for more research and have joined our network. The development of the ARC Research Network on Ageing Well is clearly timely and meets a strongly expressed national need.

National Benefits

To plan constructively for an ageing Australia will require profound attitudinal changes and knowledge to guide positive individual and social action. To understand ageing as a whole-of-person and whole-of-society experience is essential for constructive social action but this cannot be encompassed well within any one disciplinary paradigm. The actions and related research must extend across all aspects of Australian culture and social organisation and throughout government including mainstream employment, housing, land use, and other programs as well as age-specific retirement income and care programs.

Research on positive aspects of ageing experiences – a perspective that was largely unthinkable until recently - will confront the negative attitudes that can undermine the morale of older people and enable pro-active planning in mid life for old age. Understanding the determinants and variability of outcomes in old age will shed light on investments and interventions that can improve ageing experiences. The aspirations and characteristics of the massive baby boom cohort and their changing relations with the Generations X and Y – in the context of economic and social change – are the fundamental substrate for understanding futures for individual and societal ageing.

Research findings from the Network participants over the next five years will contribute to public debate that will encourage positive actions. There remains time to adjust individual's plans and implement policies and institutional change in anticipation of the full effects of population ageing. The value of social research for facilitating constructive change can be demonstrated by research in the 1980s identifying carers' needs and subsequent community care developments. Similarly, health status research in the early 1990s, showing the 'improvability' of ageing experiences, has informed health promotion policies over the last few years. Further advances in policy and social change can be stimulated and supported by research in our theme areas in close association with constituency groups.

Communication Strategies

The Network's research planning and dissemination of findings will be articulated closely to the expertise and knowledge requirements of key constituencies. The Network will maintain ongoing, two-way relationships with organizations representing older people, carers, industry groups, Commonwealth and State government departments, the Australian and International Associations of Gerontology, and key professional and discipline associations. This interaction will occur through our Network activities on an ongoing basis, for example, through the work of Theme Areas and their interactions with key constituencies. Our State hubs and theme areas, working closely with State Offices on Ageing, will provide ongoing interchange on a more localized basis, including 'circuits' through the regions of larger States (Qld, NSW, and WA).

The Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), led by Professor Richardson from our Network, provides an outstanding forum for bringing research agendas and findings for critical discussion between researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders in ***annual policy workshops***. We will build on the successful model being implemented this year by the University of Queensland involving Network Participants in collaboration with the Academy. Further, teams of Network Participants are available to lead initiatives on ageing presented by other organizations, for example, six of us are leading the ageing component of the Futures Summit for national leadership development in May.

The Network Website www.ageingwell.edu.au is already linked to clearing house functions of the Ageing Research Online (ARO) auspiced by the AIHW. The Network website will provide on line information exchange (e.g., chat room for research proposals, grant development or analysis), newsletter, notifications (e.g., job market, early announcements of visitors to/from Australia, recent PhD completions), and email distribution networks (e.g. a government policy release can be disseminated widely and quickly).

5 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The **Network Convener** will have overall responsibility for leadership of the Network, working to the policies and procedures of the University of Sydney and the ARC grant conditions. He will actively lead, initiate and facilitate research development, collaboration and excellence across the Network; represent the network at national and international forums; liaise with senior decision makers in ageing and potential funders, and manage the governance and hub activities including dissemination and translation activities.

The **Management Committee** will comprise the Conveners of the four Theme Nodes, the Network Convener, the Chair of the Advisory Group (see below), an emerging researcher, and at least one medical researcher from the large Healthy Ageing Theme area (to ensure disciplinary mix). The Committee will oversee the overall research program including the four thematic areas; *ARC Research Network Proposal on Ageing Well RN0460007*

ensure that activities are inter-disciplinary and cross-cutting the four thematic areas; oversee the shared research programs (international visitors, data archiving, new researcher strategy, etc), oversee USYD hub functions, and approve discretionary resource commitments. The Committee will make policy decisions on behalf of the Network; lead national research coordination and advocacy; and carry accountability responsibility to the ARC and other funders. The Management Committee will meet face to face at least twice a year and by teleconference as necessary.

Each of the four **Theme Areas will have a Convener** (appointed for five years) will work with up to five Co-Conveners who have scholarly expertise, a willingness to share leadership, and reflect the breadth of interests and disciplines across their areas. The Theme Committees will have responsibility for leading and organizing research activities; ensuring a mix of disciplines; encouraging cross-cutting research with other thematic areas; relating with constituency groups and embracing collaboration with them; including emerging researchers (including in leadership activities) and, collaborating with international researchers and networks. They will have a major role in stimulating research, taking initiatives to get senior researchers together, developing new projects and pursuing funding, and overall facilitating research collaboration.

The Theme Committees will set priorities and allocate resources while keeping the Network Convener and steering committee informed. The Theme Committees in SA, Qld, and NSW also will have **state-based responsibilities** as per the below. The separate State hub in WA will coordinate with State governments in strengthening partnerships with end-point users and for liaising with local researchers including those in remote and regional areas. Initiation of major projects and/or resource allocations (\$5,000 or more) at the Theme Nodes and State Hubs (\$5,000 of resources or more will require approval by the management committee.

The **Advisory Group** will be comprised of five representatives of government, industry, and consumer groups which are well-positioned to collaborate with the Research Network and make use of the research findings. We have agreement for a senior member from COTA/National Seniors, Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA), the Australian Association of Gerontology, and State offices on Ageing (one representative each) to serve on the Group. The Immediate Past President of the AAG will Chair the Group and sit on the Management Committee. A senior representative also has been invited from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The Advisory Group will meet face to face at least annually with the Network Convener and have teleconferences as required. The Group's members will have responsibility to represent the views of their constituencies to the Network; ensure ongoing input into research directions; monitor and advise on collaborations, work plans and information flows; and advise on collaboration in setting research agendas, conducting research, and disseminating and translating research into practice, policy, and public awareness.

D2 Track Record of Network Convener

Professor Kendig, H.L

- Professor and Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney (1998-)
- Lead Convener, Ageing Institutional Research Strength, University of Sydney (2001-)
- Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University (1998-)

AB (1970) University of California (Davis), MPI (1973) University of Southern California, PhD University of Southern California (1975)

Previous Relevant Employment Experience

- Director, Lincoln Gerontology Centre, ARC Key Centre for Education and Research, La Trobe University (1989-1998 – three full terms to completion of the grant)
- Personal Chair, School of Behavioural Health Sciences, La Trobe University (1994-1998)
- Senior Fellow, Urban Research Unit, Research School of Social Sciences (RSSH), Australian National University (1987-1988)
- Research Associate, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, ANU (1987-89)
- Fellow and Coordinator, Ageing & the Family Project, RSSH, ANU (1980-88)
- Research Fellow, Urban Research Unit, RSSH, ANU (1975-79)
- Consultant, California Commission on Aging and US Administration on Aging (1973-1974)

Ten Most Significant Publications

- H. Kendig, and S. Duckett, *Australian Directions in Aged Care: the Generation of Policies for Generations of Older People*, Australian Health Policy Institute at the University of Sydney, Commissioned Paper Series 2001/5, 2001, pp 113.
- W. Liu and H. Kendig (eds.) *Who Should Care for the Elderly: An East-West Divide*, Singapore University Press/World Scientific, 2000, 356 pp. (including Chapter 'Family Change and Family Bonding in Australia') [Outstanding Book of the Year, 2001 Award, *Australasian Journal on Ageing*]
- H. Kendig, C. Browning, and A. Young, Impacts of Illness and Disability on the Well-being of Older People, *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 2000, 22(1-2), 15-22.
- H. Kendig, W. Koyano, T. Asakawa, T. Ando, Social Support of Older People in Australia and Japan, *Ageing and Society*, 1999, 185-207.
- H. Kendig, Understanding Health Promotion for Older People: Sociological Contributions, in V. Minichiello, N. Chappell, H. Kendig, and A. Walker (eds.) *The Sociology of Ageing*, International Sociological Association, Melbourne, 1996, 360-375.
- H. Kendig and J. Pynoos, Housing, in J. Birren (ed.) *Encyclopedia on Ageing*, Academic Press, San Diego, 1996, 703-713.
- H. Kendig, A. Hashimoto, and L. Coppard (eds.) *Family Support to Elderly People: The International Experience*, Oxford University Press, 1992, xi, 308 pp. [Chinese edition published by Wu-Nan Book Co., Taiwan, 1998] (and author on two chapters)
- H. Kendig, Comparative Perspectives on Housing, Aging, and Social Structure, in R. Binstock and L. George (eds.), *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*, 3rd ed., Academic Press, San Diego, 1990, 288–306.
- H. Kendig and J. McCallum (eds.), *Grey Policy: Australian Policies for an Ageing Society*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1990, 216pp. (and author of two chapters).
- H. L. Kendig (ed.), *Ageing and Families: A Support Networks Perspective*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, London, and Boston, 1986, xviii 237 pp. (and author on four chapters)

Total Number of Peer-reviewed research publications

Time Period	Books	Reports	Chapters	Articles	Published papers
Last five years	2	5	11	22	8
Career total	14	18	45	53	47

Competitive Grant Funding Not including ARC over the last five years

- A. Bundy, L. Clemson, V. Deal and **H. Kendig**, A Review of Day Therapy Centres and Models for Effective Service Delivery, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, 2003, \$104,043
- L. Clemson, R. Twible, R. Cumming, and **H. Kendig**, The Effectiveness of a Community Based Program for Reducing the Incidence of Falls Among the Elderly: A Randomised Trial, National Health and Medical Research Council, 2000-02, \$202,532
- D. de Vaus, **H. Kendig**, D. Sargeant, P. Reeve & Y. Wells, Healthy Retirement Project, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, 1997-99, \$373,174
- D. de Vaus and **H. Kendig**, Health and Well-being Impacts of Retirement: A Longitudinal Study, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, 2000-02, \$225,058
- H. Kendig**, C. Browning, M. Fiatarone-Singh, S. Quine, S. Thomas and C. Unsworth Functional Ageing, Health, and Services (FAHS): A Longitudinal Outcomes Study National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 2003-2005, \$211,465
- H. Kendig**, S. Quine, and C. Bridge, Housing and Care for Older and Younger People with Disabilities, AHURI Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, 2001 \$88,981
- H. Kendig**, G. Andrews, C. Browning, S. Quine, and A. Parsons, A Review of Healthy Ageing Research in Australia, Commonwealth Office for Older Australians & The Community Services Advisory Council, 2000, \$50,000
- H. Kendig**, C. Browning, B. Lungren-Linquist, and M. Morris, Health Behaviours and Outcomes in Later Life, National Health and Medical Research Council, , 1998-0, \$161,500
- L. Llewellyn, L. Gething, R. Cant, and **H. Kendig**, Service Pathways for Ageing Caregivers of Adults with Intellectual Disability, NHMRC, 2000-01, \$141,946
- C. Russell, **H. Kendig**, S. Quine, and G. Sullivan Ageing Men at Risk: Health, Housing, and Service Use, NHMRC, 1999-01, \$250,302

The impact of Professor Kendig's research is recognised by invitations to write review chapters in authoritative international reviews and to present keynote addresses; for example 'Successful Ageing: Social Science Perspectives' to the International Association of Gerontology (IAG) in Tokyo in 2003. He was awarded the IAG's President's Prize for Excellence of Research for a Mid Career Scientist (1987) and he has held visiting fellowships with Columbia University, Nihon University, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Association of Gerontology, the Australasian Epidemiological Association, and the Gerontological Society of America.

He has served on the editorial board of the *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, the International Advisory Board of *Ageing and Society*, and the boards of other leading journals in ageing. He works closely with governments, for example, leading the national, collaborative *Healthy Ageing Research Review* (2001), contributing to National Research Priorities (notably the Ageing Well, Ageing Productively Goal), and serving on the Prime Minister's Promoting Healthy Ageing task force (PMSEIC, 2003). He has held collaborative ARC research grants with aged care organizations and contributes regularly to the conferences and policy development of peak industry bodies and consumer organizations in ageing.

Professor Kendig co-chairs the Social Research, Planning, and Practice Committee of the International Association of Gerontology (Asia Oceania), is a Life Member of the Council on the Ageing (Australia), and serves on the Workshop Committee of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He has supervised 14 PhD students and led a number of research teams with post doctoral fellows as well as senior researchers, including many Participants in this Network. As Dean he has continued as an active researcher; leading research development among the 400 staff in his Faculty (Health Sciences). He also contributes to University-wide research developments across Faculties at the University of Sydney.

D3 Participants role in Network

3.1 Complementarity of the participants' research interests.

The Network embraces most of the eminent Australian researchers in ageing and draws in new high profile researchers from key disciplines and fields of research that impact on our understanding of ageing and older people. Participants who have not traditionally worked in mainstream ageing research will be a crucial addition to the capacity to deal with important emerging issues. The 50 core participants represent a large range of disciplinary and methodological expertise. During the seeding phase of the application, a further 140 participants have been recruited through a registration process. Organisational affiliation is available to organisations that are the end-users of research.

The multidisciplinary team of participants has an excellent track record and demonstrated collaboration within the team, and with policymakers, gerontology associations, consumer organizations, peak industry bodies and overseas researchers (see D 1.3). Emerging researchers (PhD students and new postdoctoral researchers) are included at all levels of governance and organizational structure. Disciplinary expertise includes architecture, economics, public health, geography, information science, policy and evaluation, psychology, social work, allied health, sociology, statistics, engineering, urban planning, geriatric epidemiology, physical activity, geriatric medicine, geriatric psychiatry and primary health care. The methodological expertise of the participants embraces both theoretical and high level qualitative and quantitative analysis skills. Team members have expertise in epidemiology, modeling, demography, outcome measurement, longitudinal surveys, data linkages and policy evaluation.

By including a range of disciplines and methodological expertise, the Network can tackle the big research issues for ageing populations and assess the strategies and methods best able to carry forward this research. The Network will foster essential interdisciplinary collaboration across the biomedical, behavioural and social sciences divide and ARC/NHMRC funding boundaries (see D1.3) to further knowledge in current and future aspects of ageing. The Network will incorporate in the research planning the diversity of the ageing, including the impact of cohort, social group and individual differences on outcomes and aspirations.

The Network has strengthened its membership by combining with or developing connections with other networks. The Ageing Well Network merged with the Australian Panel Data Users Network (Wooden, Melbourne University) and with the AUSSGRID: The Australian Social Science Data Grid (Mitchell ANU). Collaboration prospects are promising with The Brain and Behaviour Network (Murphy & Coleman). A life span perspective will be enhanced by our Participants who have joint membership with The Future Generation: Children and Young People Network (Stanley). We offered a merger with the Healthy Ageing – Prevention and Intervention (HA-PI) Network proposal. Three of HA-PI's senior researchers are now participating in our Network: McCallum (who convened it), Wooden (HILDA Principal Investigator), and Byles (a Principal Investigator on Women's Health Australia).

As the proposed Network Convener, Kendig has led major, multi-disciplinary research initiatives in ageing at three of the Universities central to the Network (see D2). His research interests span the thematic areas in terms of individual and population ageing. His primary research interests are social relationships, the built environment, healthy ageing, social change, and policy development. His research focuses on the diversity and views of older people, their contributions as well as their vulnerabilities, and the application of research-based knowledge to improve ageing experiences. He has contributed to a knowledge base for developing community care and health promotion and for planning for an ageing Australia. His comparative research with overseas collaborators has shed light on cultural and societal influences on ageing experiences. His research teams have involved multi-disciplinary approaches, multi-method investigations (surveys and qualitative interviews), and collaboration with organizations for older people, policymakers, and researchers in Asia, Europe, and North America.

Network participants provide breadth and depth across the four themes outlined in D1.2. The theme areas assist in focusing the Network's collaborations but these collaborations will be fostered flexibly within them, across them and on other bases (eg, within states for some applied ventures). Special interest group Conveners will be designated for particular cross-cutting issues (eg rural and remote) and these can be short term or ongoing. The Network's interdisciplinary research strengths contribute to key research questions as follows:

Productivity and economic security

This theme is convened by Professor Sue Richardson with Professor Peter Saunders as the Co-Convener. The productivity of older people is crucial to the issue of whether the ageing of the population will generate an unbearable burden of dependency on the working age group. The concept of productivity needs to be extended beyond the conventional notion of producing goods and services for sale in order to understand the contribution that older people make to society.

The Network members in this thematic area are in a prime position to work collaboratively to address key research questions. How long people are productive is determined by: their potential to remain in the workforce longer, including the willingness of employers to hire them (McDonald, Gregory, Richardson, Earl); their retirement decision making (Richardson, Hesketh, Piggott); the changing character of labour markets (Gregory, Richardson); informal contributions and how we value them (de Vaus, Saunders); issues to do with the increased propensity to live alone and how this might relate to domestic productivity (Clemson, Gibson, Bartlett); feelings of safety and mastery of domestic technologies and the technologies of consumption (such as banking and payment systems, public transport and libraries) in enabling older people to be self-providing in the domestic sphere (Richardson, Rosenman, Wilson); and, income support (McDonald, Saunders, Harding), adequacy of savings and public and private financial risk sharing (Butler, Piggott, Rosenman), enhancing the capacity of older people, particularly women, to manage their assets for and in retirement and what works to help protect people from financial abuse and fraud (Rosenman).

Collaboration among many of these Network members is already substantial. For example, Gregory, Richardson, Harding and Saunders have, in various combinations, collaborated in several book-length projects (*Reshaping the Australian Labour Market* and *The Price of Prosperity: the social and economic consequences of unemployment*). Membership of the Network will lead to new and potentially extremely productive collaborations.

Independent living and social participation

This theme is convened by Professor Helen Bartlett and the Co-Convener is Professor Duncan Boldy. This theme aims to contribute knowledge on ways in which older people can maintain a good quality of life in their own homes or in other living arrangements, and remain connected with their personal and community ties. These outcomes are influenced by many interconnected personal, social, environmental and professional/service factors. This theme integrates researchers' interests around these factors and, in conjunction with the other themes, contributes to a comprehensive coverage of key questions and research priorities raised in many government reports and strategies over recent years.

Network participants have strong capacities to research how independent living and other positive life outcomes for older people are influenced (and potentially improvable) through personal and environmental factors. Expertise is available in personal factors including self-management (Edwards), self-actualisation (Boldy), client decision making and empowerment (Bartlett, Boldy, Thomas), resident satisfaction (Boldy, Bartlett) and quality of life (Bartlett, Boldy, Edwards). Interest in the social factors spans social support (Minichiello), prevention of social isolation (Bartlett, Boldy, Earl), disability and ageing (Ozanne, Quine), culture/ethnicity (Minichiello, Quine), intergenerational relations (Kendig, de Vaus), attitudes towards older people (de Vaus and Minichiello), social inclusion (Bartlett) and asset management (Wilson, Piggott, Rosenman). Environmental factors include transportation (Worrall, Hensher, Boldy), falls prevention (Cellar, Clemson, Cumming), adaptation (Clemson), accessibility issues (Worrall), the built environment (Kendig), affordable housing options (Stimson) and intelligent homes (Cellar). The quality and

adequacy of professional services for older people are an important component of their quality of life and capacity for independence. The Network interests focus on community care and case management (Ozanne), assessment and health service use (Gray, Thomas), staff skills and communication in residential aged care (Bartlett, Wilson, Richardson and Worrall), regulation and quality care (Braithwaite).

Collaboration between these Network members is already significant, for example, through ARC Linkage projects in the areas of staff communication in residential aged care, and age-friendly transport. Network members are also working together on developing measures of social isolation and its prevention. As the Network develops, the national and international linkages will be strengthened to take forward a robust agenda of research and capacity building activities for this theme.

Healthy Ageing

Associate Professor Colette Browning is the theme Convener with Professor Mary Luszcz and Professor Gary Andrews as the Co-Conveners. This theme will examine ways in which older people can actively maintain or restore their health and well being, as well as ways in which social environments and health promotion interventions can actively postpone, reduce or prevent some of the health problems associated with ageing. Research is needed to identify the determinants, and impacts of healthy ageing from a range of perspectives including biological, behavioural, psychological, social, environmental and economic. The focus will be on the cognitive, sensory, and affective domains, age-associated chronic illnesses (including mental illnesses), and neurodegenerative diseases as well as prevention, management and rehabilitation in persons exhibiting or at risk of frailty and disability.

Collaborations around the healthy ageing theme already exist within the Network membership. For example, the Melbourne Longitudinal Studies on Healthy Ageing program is a joint initiative of La Trobe University (Browning) and the University of Sydney (Kendig). The investigators in this program also have collaborative links with investigators from Flinders University conducting the Australian Longitudinal Study on Ageing (Andrews and Luszcz). McCallum (Chief Investigator on The Dubbo Study of the Health of the Elderly) has strong collaborative links with Willis (US Health and Retirement Study) and the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study. Anstey is collaborating with Luszcz in a range of longitudinal studies of cognitive and sensory ageing and psychosocial predictors of mortality, and with Broe on a large injury prevention study.

To capitalize on the breadth of expertise special multidisciplinary and multi-method interest groups are being developed within the healthy ageing theme to further research agendas set by various national reports. These include: Cognitive Competence and Mental Capacities (Luszcz, Budge, Broe, Anstey, Pachana), Physical Activity and Functional Independence (Fiatarone Singh, Clark, Bartlett, Browning), Chronic Disease Self-Management (Browning, Edwards), Socio-economic and Environmental Influences on Health (Byles, Kendig), Population Health and Ageing (Andrews, Luszcz, Lopez, Clark, McCallum, McNeil), and Health Promotion and Prevention (Cumming, Clemson, Browning, and McCallum).

Population Research Strategies

The theme Convener is Dr. Judith Healy and the Co-Convener is Professor Peter McDonald. This theme builds from strengths in understanding the fundamental population dynamics of ageing including lengthening of the life span and the effects of migration and birth rates as variables in population ageing amenable to policy influences. This core demographic strength will be related to multi-disciplinary life span studies and major longitudinal studies both at ANU and at other Universities (see D1 above). Other strengths in the population area are Hugo in migration and spatial analysis from Adelaide University; Jackson on spatial factors from Tasmania; and Lopez in the relationship between health and population ageing. There is great complementarity among demographers, modelers and economists particularly in understanding the possibilities for the future. Similarly, there is great potential for collaboration between researchers in the social health sciences in understanding, at a deeper level, patterns of life expectancy, active life expectancy, and

life transitions. The core of population expertise concentrated in Canberra extends beyond ANU Demography to include the major epidemiological and methodological strengths at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, notably the work of Banks from the Million Women Study in the U.K. Anstey and others from the Centre for Mental Health Research have a strong population and methodological focus.

Harding of the National Centre for Social and Economic Modeling (NATSEM) has extensive experience in the construction of micro-simulation models – models of individuals that can predict in great detail the distributional impact of possible policy, social and economic changes. This work intersects with those in other thematic areas who have substantive interests in population ageing, spatial distribution of older Australians, their care needs and the cost of that care; likely future demand for informal care; and the likely future retirement incomes in the coming decades of the baby boomers. In close collaboration with other Network members, these models will be enhanced and new models will be developed.

3.2 Capacity of participants to raise the profile of the Network nationally and internationally

Network participants have major international profiles in ageing and related research. Andrews as President (immediate past) of the International Association of Gerontology (IAG) leads the development of the UN Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21st Century, involving others from the Network. He has consulted extensively with WHO and the UN Fund for Population Ageing on healthy ageing projects in more than 20 countries. Luszcz has served as Vice-president/Secretary of the IAG. Other members of the Network, notably the Australasia Centre on Ageing, have extensive links across the Asian region including Hong Kong, China, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Japan and other Asian countries. Network members act as advisors to a number of international research projects. For example, Banks is a consultant to the International Agency for Research on Cancer and is an Epidemiological Consultant to the World Health Organization.

Network participants serve on numerous national research, policy and professional committees. For example eight Network participants are members of the National Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) committee set up by the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing. Andrews is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Ageing and on the advisory board of many international bodies including the UN Institute on Ageing and the WHO Advisory Committee on Health and Ageing. Participants are well represented in academic and professional bodies. Richardson is President of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Broe is President of the Australian Association of Gerontology. Pachana is the National Convener of Australian Psychological Society's (APS) Interest Group on Psychology and Ageing.

Many Network members have contributed to prestigious international reviews and many have served on the editorial boards of major International journals (see D3.3). Gibson currently serves as Editor of the Australasian Journal on Ageing as did McCallum before her.

Collaboration with international ageing researchers is particularly strong with numerous examples of leadership roles in national and international conferences. Four Network Participants spoke recently at the First International Conference on Longevity in 2004 and four more spoke at the International Federation of Ageing Conference in 2002. The Dynamic Processes in Ageing Conference, held at the ANU in 2003, was organized by the ANU and Flinders University, including three members of the Network who attracted international research leaders of longitudinal studies including the following who now support the Network (Professor Sir Michael Marmot; Associate Professor Scott Hofer; Professor Bob Willis and Professor Toni Antonucci). Others from the Network are leaders in developing focused and specific forums that also cross discipline divides such as the forthcoming Inaugural National Falls Prevention Conference (Anstey, Cumming).

Each of the four thematic areas has significant links with **International Collaborators** who have committed support to the Australian Network. These include the following world experts:

- Professor Sir Michael **Marmot**, University College London, is arguably the leading world authority on social determinants of health and he led the English version of the US Health and Retirement Survey (Population Research Strategies).
- Associate Professor Scott **Hofer**, Pennsylvania State University is an expert in longitudinal design and analysis, lifespan developmental psychology, and gene-environment interactions. He has co-authored with Anstey and Luszcz from the Network on Australian data (Population Research Strategies).
- Professor Robert **Willis**, University of Michigan, is an economist and Director of the landmark US Health and Retirement Study, a national longitudinal survey of Americans aged 50 and over (Population Research Strategies, & Productivity and Economic Security).
- Professor Toni **Antonucci**, University of Michigan, is a distinguished researcher in the field of social relations across the lifespan and is currently active in collaborative research in the United States, Japan, France and Germany (Independent Living & Social Participation).
- Professor Tim **Smeeding**, Syracuse University, is the Maxwell Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for Policy and Research. His research interests include the economics of public policy including the economics of ageing (Productivity and Economic Security Theme).
- Professor Gary **Burtless**, Brookings Institution, holds a chair in Economic Studies and has published widely in the areas of public finance, aging, labor markets and income distribution (Productivity and Economic Security Theme).
- Professor Marcia **Ory**, Texas A & M University System, is the Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Program Office on Active for Life. She was previously Chief, Behavioral Medicine and Medical Sociology, US National Institute on Aging. Her research interests include ageing and public health, and social factors in health and illness (Healthy Ageing Theme).
- Professor Jacqui **Smith**, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, is an expert in psychological functioning in the old and oldest-old and is a Chief Investigator on the Berlin Ageing Study (Healthy Ageing Theme).
- Professor Victor **Marshall**, University of North Carolina, is the Director of its Institute on Ageing, and former Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Gerontology. His research interests include older workers and the retirement transition; social theory and the life course. (Independent Living and Social Participation Theme)
- Associate Professor Judith **Davey**, Victoria University of Wellington, is the Director of the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing and an expert in the social, economic and policy implications of population ageing (Healthy Ageing Theme and Independent Living and Social Participation Theme).

3.3 Participants track records relative to opportunity.

The Network captures a group of researchers with impressive grant, research and professional achievements. Of the 50 core participants listed in A3 of the application, 33 are full Professors, 6 are Associate Professors, and 10 are Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. We have also embraced early career researchers with 17 participants in the Network having less than 15 years postdoctoral experience. Nine leading international collaborators are included in the Network. The following tables summarise the track records of the Network participants:

Participant Information Summary

Number of Professors	Number of Assoc. Professors	Fellows of Academy of Social Sciences in Australia	Number of Early Career Researchers	Number of Publications (1999-2003)
33	6	10	17	1560

Doctoral Supervision Summary

Number of Doctoral students supervised to completion (1999-2003)	Number of Current Doctoral students
242	185

Research Grants Summary

1999-2003	ARC	NHMRC	Other	Total
Number	75	71	265	411
Amount	\$17.01 mil	\$55.42 mil	\$68.25 mil	\$140.68 mil

Note: Grants provided by individual investigators are counted more than once if these grants have more than one investigator from our Network.

A majority of participants in the Network hold research leadership roles in their Universities and many are international leaders in their fields with capacities to work across the Network themes.

Instances of excellence include:

- **McDonald** (Population Research Strategies Co-Convener), a leading demographer, is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and member of the Council of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.
- **Hugo**, also a leading demographer and Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, is active nationally and internationally in charting and predicting the course and implications of population ageing and has secured an ARC Federation Fellowship over five years.
- **Hensher** is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport and the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Hensher is regarded as one of the world's eminent experts in travel behaviour and demand modelling, and forecasting research and implementation.
- **Richardson** (Productivity and Economic Security Convener) is a major figure in Australian labour market studies. In the past two years she has advised the Canadian, New Zealand and Australian governments, the ILO and the OECD on topics that range from immigration to low wage jobs and training for older workers. She is President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and previously Chair of its Research Committee.
- **Saunders** (Productivity and Economic Security Co-Convener) is an ARC Principal Research Fellow and Chairs the Workshop program of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. He has led Australia's foremost social policy research group since its inception.
- **Braithwaite** is an ARC Federation Fellow and Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. His groundbreaking books have won a number of prizes in the US and Europe.
- **Gregory** is Australia's pre-eminent labour economist, with a strong international reputation, and is also a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.
- **Wooden** is a highly published labour market economist who heads the design and ongoing management of the HILDA Survey:
- **Harding**, as Director of NATSEM, is at the forefront of formal modeling of the social and economic consequences of the ageing population. She has most recently produced a major report on the adequacy of private savings for retirement and is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.
- **Luszcz** (Healthy Ageing Co-Convener) is a former Chair of an ARC panel and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. She is Professor of Gerontology and Psychology and is a chief investigator on a major longitudinal study on ageing (ALSA).
- **Lopez**, is the leading population health researcher and principal investigator on several internationally funded studies including the US National Institutes for Health funded Global Burden of Disease in Aging Populations.
- **Cumming** is a Professor of Epidemiology and Geriatric Medicine and is chief investigator on large studies of falls interventions, very old men, and longitudinal studies on ageing.

- **Fiatarone Singh** is an outstanding international scholar in the field of exercise and nutrition interventions for older people and holds large grants from the US National Institutes for Health and the NHMRC.
- **Banks**, a leading epidemiologist, is the scientific director of the NSW 45 and Up Study and was previously the director of the UK Million Women Study.
- **Bartlett** (Independent Living and Social Participation Convener) has an international track record in ageing and aged care across the health and social sciences. She is a professor of gerontology and foundation Director of the Australasian Centre on Ageing. She is a member of the recently formed NHMRC/ARC working group on Ageing Well, Ageing Productively.

Publications and journal editing

Network participants have published in and are on the editorial boards of the most significant national and international journals on ageing and gerontology including: *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *Psychology and Ageing*, *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, *the Journals of Gerontology: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, *the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, *Ageing and Society*, *Hong Kong Journal of Gerontology*, *The Australasian Journal on Ageing*, and *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*. In addition, they have published in and are on the editorial boards of high ranking journals from other disciplines such as: *The British Medical Journal*, *Medical Journal of Australia*, *Australian Social Work*, *Australian Journal of Audiology*, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, *Lancet*, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, *the International Journal of Behavioural Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Asia-Pacific Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing*, *Journal of Transport Economics and Policy*, *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, *International Journal of Audiology*, and *the Asia-Pacific Journal of Social Work*. They serve as journal editors or associate editors (Gibson, Gray, Bartlett: Editor and Associate Editors *Australasian Journal on Ageing*; Luszcz: inaugural editor of Behavioural Sciences Section of *Gerontology*). Participants have contributed to prestigious international reviews including the *International Handbook on Ageing and the Social Sciences* and the *Encyclopaedia on Ageing*.

Collaborative grant and research activity

Participants have received grants from international bodies such as the U.S. National Institutes for Health and the National Institute on Aging; the major state and national funding bodies including ARC Discovery, NHMRC, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Healthways and the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund; and State and Commonwealth government and other organisations such as the Divisions of General Practice. In addition, several members have developed strong industry collaboration and hold current ARC Linkage grants with Queensland Transport and Department of Communities (Worrall), Delphin Lend Lease (Bartlett), Tricare, Blue Care and Aged Care Queensland (Bartlett, Wilson and Worrall), housing (Cellar) Victorian Department of Human Services (Thomas) and the Uniting Church (Ozanne). Several of the members have been influential in informing state and national policy through evaluation and reviews of service delivery, strategy and policy for older Australians (Bartlett, Gray, Kendig, Ozanne, Gregory, Saunders, Richardson, McCallum, Thomas). Gregory has had extensive experience in collaboration with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services in understanding the intersection between labour market opportunities and use of the social welfare system.

3.4 Encouraging researchers who have less than 15 years postdoctoral experience to build research leadership and management skills.

Developing and supporting emerging researchers in ageing will be an important focus of this Network, involving a commitment from all its members. The Network will provide a vehicle for attracting new research students and fostering the development of early career researchers, providing them with a supportive and dynamic environment. Seventeen of the Network participants

are new researchers. An example of a highly successful early career researcher is Anstey. She has held several fellowships including an NHMRC Career Development Award and an NHMRC Australian Clinical Research Fellowship. She works on the Australian Longitudinal Study on Ageing (ALSA) and the 20-year longitudinal Path through Life survey and is involved in collaborative research at Pennsylvania State University. Network participants have supervised to completion 242 doctoral students in the last 5 years.

A recent pilot study of PhD students in ageing undertaken by Bartlett found that students have very little support in building a career in ageing research, have few Networking opportunities and limited specialist supervision in ageing. This study revealed how little is known about the situation of emerging researchers in ageing who work in a wide range of disciplines across the country. It is therefore proposed that the Network will conduct a national survey of ageing researchers to scope the range of PhD activity across the disciplines, identify more clearly the needs of emerging researchers and inform the Network's program of activities. A range of other strategies described below will be employed by the Network over the five years.

Mentoring: A Network mentoring scheme will provide opportunities for emerging researchers to receive guidance and leadership in various aspects of their career development. Guidance on the mentoring role will be provided to members taking up this activity. Emerging researchers wishing to access the scheme will be linked up with potential mentors and mentoring activities may occur via email, telephone, at conferences, meetings, or shadowing/ placements arrangements.

Training: The Network will offer a program of workshops and master classes for emerging researchers focusing on grant writing in ageing well research priority areas, methodological approaches and issues, collaboration and partnerships in ageing research. Workshops will be convened annually in each State. Opportunities to attend workshops organised through the thematic nodes will also be made available to emerging researchers.

Supervision: Access to PhD supervision expertise from leading researchers across the Network will be facilitated. As new research questions and proposals are developed, the opportunities for PhD projects on priority issues, supervised by experts in the field, will be identified and advertised. Network members will ensure that within their organisations a high priority is given to the allocation of research student places associated with the Network. Students will be encouraged to join the Network's register and to use the Network to communicate with other emerging researchers.

International/national exchange: Links between emerging researchers and the Network's international collaborators will be facilitated, particularly where their studies may be enhanced by knowledge development in specialised methodologies or areas of inquiry, or by comparative and cross-cultural approaches. Opportunities will also be identified within Australia for linkages with other research teams.

Networking: Early career researchers will have the opportunity to make rapid connections with like-minded people in their areas of research interest. This will accelerate and expand the process of Networking that all active researchers develop. Of particular value will be the connections that the Network will provide between early career researchers and policy makers and practitioners. This will meet an important need in Australia, where currently these links across the domains of research, policy and practice are difficult to establish and to maintain.

National conference: The Network will connect with and build on the National Annual Conference for Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA). This interdisciplinary forum is in its third year and provides PhD students with a platform to present their research to an audience that includes end users and potential employers. The Network will support the continued development of this national initiative where new talent can be identified and supported, particularly in thematic areas of the Network. Travel grants will be made available for research students to present at ERA conferences and also the Annual Australian Association of Gerontology Conference and other key meetings such as the International Congress of Gerontology.