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Email Bulletin – December 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the last bulletin for 2006. If you have items that you wish to be included in future bulletins please do not hesitate to forward them to us.

ERA 2006 Conference:

The 2006 Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference was held in Sydney on 21 November. This is the first time the conference has been held outside Queensland and the conference was well attended with 190 attendees including 78 presenters from across 21 Australian universities as well as from New Zealand. The conference was well received by the students, academics, policy makers and other ageing constituencies who were in attendance. Congratulations to Chris Shanley from the University of Sydney who was the conference convenor, and to Helen Bartlett from the University of Queensland who started the ERA initiative and continues to support it as it spreads its wings. Negotiations are underway regarding the ERA 2007 Conference taking place in Adelaide prior to with the next Australian Association of Gerontology National Conference.

AAG Conference:

The 2006 Australian Association of Gerontology National Conference was held in Sydney on 22-24 November and was very well attended with over 480 delegates, 40% more than in the previous year. The conference covered a wide range of topics across the 4 key areas of cultural, gender, health and social diversity. The Network was well represented at the conference including the Network-sponsored session on "Social Well-being and Health in Older People: Findings from Longitudinal Studies in Australia". The session was chaired by Colette Browning and included presentations by investigators from three key longitudinal studies (Hal Kendig – MELSHA; Julie Byles – ALSWH; Lynne Giles – ALSA). The session was well attended and generated a lot of discussion. The Network was also very pleased to sponsor the visit of Professor Sarah Harper, Director of the Oxford Institute of Ageing at the University of Oxford, who gave a keynote address on "Global Ageing, Migration and Workforces" which was very well received. A copy of Professor Harper's address is available on the Network Website (www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources.htm).

AAG Executive – Congratulations to Tony Broe and welcome to Laurie Buys:

The Network wishes to congratulate Professor Tony Broe on his three-year term as President of the AAG. Tony's major aims during his term were on building a strong Student Section and increasing the focus on indigenous ageing through the development of an Aboriginal Ageing and Torres Strait Islander Committee. The Network is pleased to welcome Professor Laurie Buys as the new AAG President. We look forward to working with Laurie over the next three years. Congratulations also to Professor Julie Byles and Ms Barbara Squires who were elected as General Members of the AAG Executive Committee.

Convenor Activities:

During September Hal Kendig travelled to the UK and the US. Whilst in the UK Hal presented a paper on "Lifestyle Choices and Predictors" at the British Society of Gerontology conference in Bangor, Wales. During his time in London, Hal met with Professor Anthea Tinker from the Institute of Gerontology to discuss consumer-led research with older people and research on the prevalence of elder abuse.

Hal also met with Professor James Nazroo (University College London) to discuss the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and its relevance to Australia as well as meetings with representatives from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity to discuss UK Research Networks and possible collaborations to foster emerging researchers.

In the US, Hal met with Dr Richard Suzman from the National Institute on Aging to explore possible NIA interest in Australia-based research. Hal met with representatives from the University of Southern California to explore collaborations on intergenerational research and with the RAND Foundation regarding longitudinal research. Hal also visited Dr Harry (Rick) Moody and the offices of AARP to discuss possible collaborations with the Network and the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre.

More recently, Hal gave a keynote address 'Connecting Research to Action' to the 8th Australian Injury Prevention Network Conference in Sydney on 28 September. He presented another keynote address at the Ageing in New Zealand: Reporting Research Progress Conference in Wellington New Zealand on 13 November. A copy of the address entitled "Research on Ageing: Challenges and Directions in an International Context" is available in the resources section of our website. Whilst in New Zealand, Hal was interviewed on the national TV One Breakfast show on 13 November regarding the conference and research on ageing.

Strategic Awards for Dementia Research Grants (Round 2):

The Dementia Research Program is a joint initiative between the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Department of Health and Ageing. The program is part of the Australian Government's *Helping Australians with dementia and their carers 'Making Dementia a National Health Priority'* initiative. Up to \$11.5 million over two or three years will be available for Round 2 under this program. The NHMRC strongly encourages applications from researchers in the field of dementia willing to collaborate with other researchers and share knowledge and skills to ensure translation of research outcomes to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers. Further information regarding this program, including supporting documentation, is available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/granttype/strategic/index.htm. Administrative enquiries can be directed to the NHMRC project officer Mr Adrian Wilson on 02 6217 9458 or email adrian.wilson@nhmrc.gov.au. The closing date for applications is 5:00pm AEST 23 February 2007.

New Aged Care Website:

On 30 November 2006 Senator the Hon Santo Santoro, Federal Minister for Ageing, launched the Aged Care Australia website which will take the confusion out of searching for aged care services by allowing people to search for aged care homes in their local areas or services to support them staying in their own homes. The new website can be found at www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au

Network website updates:

The following information has been added to the resources section of our website (www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources.htm)

Victorian Forum: The program and presentations from the "Enabling Access and Independence – Translating Ageing Research Evidence to Practice and Policy" Forum Held in Melbourne on 17 August has been loaded. The summary from the forum will be loaded shortly. The forum was convened by Professor Browning who leads the Victorian State hub of the Network.

Western Australian Symposium: The summary for the second symposium for Western Australia held on Tuesday 3 October 2006 is now available. The symposium was convened by Professor Body for the WA State hub and the report outlines some key research questions relating to the Network's Independent Living and Social Participation Theme that were identified by the symposium participants. These research possibilities will be further developed by the State Hub in collaboration with the ILSP Theme.

Assistive Technology Forum: The program and background papers for the recent national Assistive Technology forum held in Canberra on 26 October 2006 has been loaded. A copy of the forum summary and presentations will be loaded shortly. Researchers interested in joining the Ageing and Technology Special Interest Group should contact Professor Branko Celler who with Professor Marc Budge convened the forum (b.celler@unsw.edu.au).

State Hub Activities:

Queensland – A half-day workshop on “The Research Relationship with Older People: Promoting Good Practice” was held on 8 December in Brisbane. It was organised by the Australasian Centre on Ageing and supported by the Network. Twenty-three key researchers from local Universities, representatives of older people’s organisations and state government participated in discussions which explored expectations, facilitators and barriers to an effective research relationship between older people and researchers. Strategies for promoting good practice were formulated and included: clear communication; appropriate terminology; acknowledgement of diversity; consultation (where appropriate); integrity; respect; and the relevance of the research to participants. A set of principles were drafted and will be finalised by a working group in the form of best practice guidelines. A copy of the principles will be provided on the Network website in due course.

Research Theme Activities:

Independent Living and Social participation – An Intergenerational Relations Research Workshop was held on 20 November 2006 at the University of Queensland with 24 people in attendance including local, interstate and international researchers as well as representation from state and local government. Professor Sarah Harper, Director of the Oxford Institute of Ageing, was the guest speaker and provided an international context for the morning’s discussion. Groupwork followed to explore the scope of the intergenerational relations research agenda, including existing strengths and gaps in the evidence base. The group identified the need for further research and collaboration across a range of issues, such as: the intergenerational implications of migration and cultural diversity; indigenous intergenerational relations; younger carers of older people; and asset management issues from an intergenerational and legal perspective. A summary report on the workshop will be provided on the Network website in due course.

Ageing-related Publications:

New book: Professor Michael Fine from Macquarie University launched his new book “A Caring Society? Care and the Dilemmas of Human Service in the 21st Century”. This important text offers a systematic, comparative analysis of the sociology, philosophy and emergent practices of care in the context of the political economy of post-industrial societies.

New Journal: The Journal of Population Ageing, edited by Sarah Harper and George Leeson from the Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford, UK and published by Springer, will commence in 2008. The journal will address the broad questions of ageing societies internationally and will be published in 4 issues of 60 pages each comprising an editorial, peer reviewed articles, book reviews and an abstract section. More information will be available shortly on www.springer.com

PhD Scholarships:

AIHW - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the University of Queensland and La Trobe University are partners in an NHMRC funded project investigating pathways through the aged care system for older people with dementia, cardiovascular disease and arthritis. The research team is keen to provide an opportunity for a PhD scholarship which would be equivalent to an Australian Postgraduate Award and would be based at the AIHW in Canberra. Expressions of Interest, due by 2 February 2007, outlining personal contact details, academic background and qualifications, and possible areas of interest should be sent to Ms Ann Peut, Head, Aging and Aged Care Unit, AIHW, GPO Box 570, Canberra, ACT, 2601. For more information please contact Ann Peut on 02 6244 1108 or ann.peut@aihw.gov.au

Primary Dementia Collaborative Research Centre – the PDCRC is funded by the Australian Government Dementia: *A National Health Priority Initiative* and established within the School of Psychiatry, UNSW. The PDCRC invites applications from graduates looking to build a career in research relevant to the area of Assessment and Better Care Outcomes for People with Dementia. The value of the scholarship is \$25,000 plus \$2,000 agreed expenses per year for a maximum of three years.

Applicants must be eligible to undertake a PhD program, or be in the first or second year of a PhD program at the University of New South Wales. The closing date for applications is Friday 12 January 2007. For further details and an application form, please contact: Ms Rosi Benninghaus or Prof. Henry Brodaty on (02) 9385-9060 or Email dementiacrc@unsw.edu.au

Postdoctoral Fellowship Position at Massey University, New Zealand:

The School of Psychology, College of Humanities & Social Sciences at Massey University is calling for applications for a Massey Postdoctoral Fellow (Cultural Pathways to Retirement) position. They are seeking a PhD graduate with some experience in either social, health or developmental psychological research, experience in quantitative research methodologies and multivariate data analysis, and an interest in ageing.

The successful applicant will develop and undertake an investigation into the key cultural and ethnic influences on the process of retirement for older adults in New Zealand, and make comparisons with international longitudinal data and will contribute to the development of the research programme on ageing as part of a collaborative team. More information about the fellowship is available at jobs.massey.ac.nz/positiondetail.asp?p=4298. **The closing date for applications is 17 December.** Enquiries should be directed to Dr Fiona Alpass, telephone +64 6 356 9099 ext 2071, email F.M.Alpass@massey.ac.nz

Upcoming Conferences:

The Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT) will be held in Toronto, Canada from 16-19 June 2007. The Festival unites five distinct international conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology with a shared focus on enhancing the lives of seniors, persons with disabilities and their caregivers. More information can be found at www.ficcdat.ca

The 8th Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics will be held in Beijing, China from October 22-25 2007. The theme of the congress will be "Ageing diversity in Asia-Oceania: Health, Participation, Security and Sharing". Abstracts should be submitted to aog2007@sino-meetings.com by 28 February 2007. More information is available at www.aog2007.org. The Network is providing our support for the Australian Association of Gerontology's bid to host the next regional congress in Australia in 2012.

Conference Reminders:

Carers NSW Conference	8 – 9 March '07	www.carersnsw.asn.au
2007 Alzheimer's Australia National Conference	29 May – 1 June '07	www.alzheimers2007conference.com.au
The 20 th Anniversary Cognitive Ageing Conference	12 – 15 July '07	www.cos.gatech.edu/cac/cac_du.htm

Conference Awards:

12 conference awards are available to assist current PhD students and recent post-doctoral researchers (\leq 5-years post PhD) to attend the 20th Anniversary Cognitive Ageing Conference – Down Under (CAC-DU). These awards are valued at \$AUD500 and are sponsored by the Network and the Australian Psychological Society's *Psychology and Ageing Interest Group*. CAC-DU is the premier showcase for research on all aspects of cognitive ageing from normal cognitive changes to frank cognitive impairment. It includes behavioural studies, imaging and work in the field of social cognition. More information on the conference and the application process is available at www.cos.gatech.edu/cac/cac_du.htm

General Reminder – Stay in Touch:

To stay in touch with the broad range of ageing-related activities in Australia we encourage you to go to the websites of the Australian Association of Gerontology and the Ageing Research Online. Links to the relevant sections are provided below:

AAG recent news www.aag.asn.au/recent_news/about_news.htm
ARO newsletters www.aro.gov.au/newsletters/index.html.

That's all for this month and for the year.

Best wishes for the festive season,



Matthew Carroll
Senior Project Officer
15 December 2006