

ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well



Convened by: The University of Sydney

Major partners:

Australian National University La Trobe University
University of Queensland Curtin University of Technology
Flinders University University of New South Wales

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Newsletter 1 – June 2005

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to send to you this first newsletter as our ARC/NHMRC Research Network on Ageing moves ahead in its five year program. Over recent months our Management Committee has clarified our directions and begun to develop the programs, which will progressively become operational over the course of this year.

We very much wish to thank the many individuals and organisations who have contributed to the development of our plans and to the success of the proposal for funding.

Setting up the Network hub

Getting the Network up and running has been delayed slightly because Professor Kendig has been relocating to work in association with the Centre for Education and Research on Ageing (CERA) at Concord Hospital. The Network unit is now established and operational. Maria Sangermano has commenced as the Administrative Officer and recruitment is in process for a Senior Project Officer.

The Website

Our website and newsletters will be our main means for communicating to the hundreds of individuals who have registered this interest in this Network. Click here www.ageingwell.edu.au to learn more about our management and governance, the work underway, our theme areas, state groups and central programs (including the Ageing Data Archive and the Emerging Researchers Initiative). You will also find links that will take you to various resources for researchers in ageing. Please check your entry on the website and make sure that the contact information is correct. If you wish to make any changes, please send an e-mail to Maria Sangermano at ageing.net@fhs.usyd.edu.au with your updated details. Please encourage colleagues involved in ageing research to follow up their interest by registering as an Associate Member of the Network through our website.

Collaborative Work

The Network is working closely with the Australian Association of Gerontology and other organisations to deepen collaborations and development in ageing research. Please consider joining the Australian Association of Gerontology (www.aag.asn.au). Also please add information about your research to the Ageing Research Online (ARO) database (www.aro.gov.au) managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The Network is also working closely with the Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) initiative of the Office for an Ageing Australia and the AIHW.

Ageing Well, Ageing Productively (AWAP) Funding Program

We are very much heartened by the ARC and NHMRC joining to offer this \$10 million research funding program on ageing over the next five years. There is a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary efforts on topics of importance for the Australian society. The preliminary research themes concern structural issues, social capital, models of care, and determinants of healthy ageing. We will let all of you know when the call for expressions of interest is announced.

Supporting emerging researchers

A core aspect of the Network's activities is to support and nurture postgraduate students and early-career researchers in ageing. This includes those who have a focus on ageing within their discipline and/or profession as well as those who are conducting multi-disciplinary research. There are several items of information below relevant to these groups.

Network survey

A national survey of emerging researchers in ageing (NERAS) is underway and researchers undertaking or recently having completed their PhDs in ageing are encouraged to contact Mair Underwood at m.underwood@uq.edu.au so they can be included in the survey. The findings will increase our understanding of emerging researchers' needs and expectations and help inform strategies for capacity building.

ERA 2005 Conference in November

The 4th National Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference (ERA 2005) will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (South Bank, Brisbane) on November 8. The theme this year is *The Diversity of Ageing: Pooling the Evidence* and Prof Hal Kendig, National Convenor of the Network, is keynote speaker. ERA 2005 is an opportunity for PhD students to showcase their work to an audience including the public, academics, providers, practitioners and policy makers. To get more information go to www.uq.edu.au/aca

AAG Student Section

Students with an interest in ageing are encouraged to join the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) as a member of the Student Section. The AAG is a particularly valuable forum for multidisciplinary research, which makes strong connections between research and practice.

AAG National Conference in November

The 2005 National Conference will be held on the Gold Coast on 9-11 November, immediately after the ERA Conference and we urge all Network Members and others to participate. As part of the conference program, there will be a symposium on Network activities and an open forum to provide information and seek input on the Network directions. To get more information go to www.aag.asn.au

Ageing Well presentation to Members of Parliament

Professors Sue Richardson and Hal Kendig were pleased to lead a discussion on Ageing Well for a group of parliamentarians hosted by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in Canberra. The event was successful in informing and spreading the word on how research-based knowledge can enable us to better address the challenges of an ageing population.

Visitors Program

The Network will be sponsoring visits by international experts. These will be organised in collaboration with particular universities and other organisations wherever possible. Sponsored visitors will be encouraged and supported to visit as many states as possible and make presentations on their work. Professor Jacqui Smith from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin will be visiting the University of Sydney later this year. If your organisation would like to bring a visiting researcher to Australia, please consider the possibility of having the visit jointly sponsored and supported by the Network.

Job Openings

Please let us know about employment opportunities in ageing research and we will make every effort to list them on our website and newsletters. A particular opportunity that may interest people now is the advertisement for a Head of Department and Director of the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. For information on this, see Positions Available on the Centre's website www.sfu.ca/grc/

HILDA Survey Research Conference 2005

The second HILDA Survey research conference is to be held at the University of Melbourne from 29-30 September, 2005. The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for the discussion of research based on the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey. Attendance at the Conference is open to all persons interested in the HILDA Survey and longitudinal survey research. See www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/conf2005.html

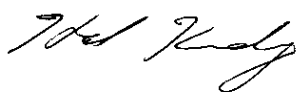
International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) Conference

Next year's conference, titled *Connecting Intergenerational Communities through Creative Exchange* will be held at Victoria University on 26-29 June 2006. The conference aims to advance a shared understanding of how intergenerational programs act as agents of social change and to promote the development of intergenerational programs and practices. For information, see <http://conferences.vu.edu.au/icip>

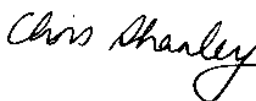
We would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort by all members of our Management Committee who are collaborating to develop and deliver the Network programs. These are Professor Helen Bartlett (University of Queensland), Professor Duncan Boldy (Curtin University of Technology), Professor Tony Broe (University of New South Wales), Associate Professor Colette Browning (La Trobe University), Dr Judith Healy (Australian National University), Professor Mary Luszcz (Flinders University), Professor Sue Richardson (Flinders University) and Barbara Squires (Benevolent Society).

The Network's contact details are on this letterhead and on our website. Thanks again for your interest in the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well.

Kind Regards,



Hal Kendig
National Convenor



Chris Shanley
A/Senior Project Officer