

## 'Overview of the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well'

Hal Kendig  
National Convenor

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## Overview

1. Are We Moving to a New Research World?
2. Network Objectives and Structures
3. What the Network Does
4. Network Issues and Directions

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### 1a. Are We Moving to a New Research World (and where does ageing fit)?

- National Research Priorities (whose agenda?)
- Connecting Research to Action (for whom?)
- Large Scale Internationally Connected
- Increasing Competition among Researchers
- The Strength (and Hegemony) of Disciplines
  
- Individual and Team Research?
- And where are the next generation of researchers?

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### 1b. The National Research Priority Goal Ageing well, ageing productively

- Developing **better social, medical and population health strategies** to improve the mental and physical capacities of ageing people.
  
- A healthy aged population will **contribute actively to the life of the nation** through participation in the labour market or through voluntary work.

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### 2a. The ARC-NHMRC Research Network Grants Program

- Aims to enhance the **scale** and **focus** of national research activity, stimulate **innovation**, and **support** researchers to **connect** with others
- Aims to identify and address areas of strength, opportunity or need where increased research effort would **make a significant contribution** to national wealth and/or well-being
- (**NOT** a research program nor a broad association)

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### 2b. Ageing Well Network Objectives

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

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## 2c. Ageing Well Network (2005-2010) Major University Partners

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

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## 2d. Key Structures

- **Management Committee** (funding partners and Chair, Advisory group)
- **Advisory Group** (key constituencies and partners: AAG, Office for an Ageing Australia, peak bodies)
- **Theme areas, Working Groups, and State Hubs**
- **50 Participants** (Interested in multidisciplinary research, and competitive research grant record)
- **265 Associate Members**

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## 3. What the Network Does a. Themes and Working Groups

- **Productivity and Economic Security**  
Professor Sue Richardson, Flinders University
- **Healthy Ageing**  
Assoc Professor Colette Browning, La Trobe University
- **Independence and Social Participation**  
Professor Helen Bartlett, University of Queensland
- **Population Research Strategies**  
Dr Judith Healy, Australian National University
- **Working Groups** (e.g.) **Aboriginal Ageing**  
Professor Tony Broe & Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver, UNSW

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## 3b. Research Proposal development support

- **Criteria: large scale, multi-disciplinary, national priorities, multi-institutional, involve older people & international collaborators**
- **ARC-NHMRC Ageing Well, Ageing Productively funding proposals strategy**
- **Enabling international partnerships**
  - US National Institute on Ageing
  - Building the Australian-European Research Community (FEAST)

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## 3c. Adding Resources for Researchers (value & efficiency)

- Theme workshops & papers
- Grant and Literature Inventory
- Australian Data Archive on Ageing
- Methodological Workshops
- International Visitors
- Policy Conferences

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## 3d. State-based Activities: (NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic, WA)

To facilitate information exchange and collaborative research proposal development at a State level

- Researchers in ageing
- Policy/decision makers (e.g. Offices on Ageing, or equivalent)
- Service providers
- Organisations representing older people

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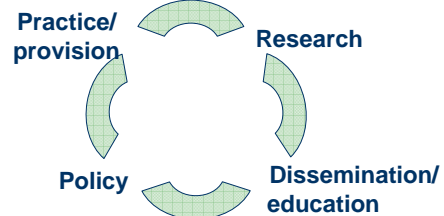
### 3e. Constituency Involvement, eg... (Barbara Squires, Benevolent Society)

- Service providers often have hunches about what would better for older people
- Speak a different “language” to researchers
- Don’t know how to formulate their questions
- Need to be reminded to treat older people as participants in planning, not objects to be “done to”

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### 3f. Network strategies to support emerging researchers

Professor Helen Bartlett,  
Director  
Australasian Centre on Ageing

The University of Queensland

### 3f. Objectives of Emerging Researchers program

- Facilitate student exchange and contact and collaboration with leading national and international researchers
- Enhance inter-disciplinary exchange on ageing research
- Nurture careers of young investigators and provide quality mentoring
- Overcome academic isolation
- Provide annual summer schools for supervisors and students
- Estimate further needs for support and development among emerging researchers

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### 3f. Network Activities/Support for Emerging Researchers

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

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### 4. Network Issues and Directions

- Building a Vision of Ageing Well
- Building Coalitions for Development
- Advocacy for Investing in Research
- How Can Older People Provide a Lead?
- Will Ageing Research Become Mainstream?
- How Do You Wish to Connect and Contribute?

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## Contacting the Network

- [www.ageingwell.edu.au](http://www.ageingwell.edu.au) (join us!)
- Central office of Network, based at The University of Sydney
  - Professor Hal Kendig - National Convenor
  - Dr Mathew Carroll – Senior Project Officer
  - Maria Sangermano - Administrative Officer
- Tel: 02 9767 8338
- Email: [ageing.net@fhs.usyd.edu.au](mailto:ageing.net@fhs.usyd.edu.au)