



ARC/NHMRC Research
Network in Ageing Well

Report of the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well Queensland Symposium 27 April 2006

The first of the Queensland events for the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well, a symposium on ageing research, was held at Customs House in Brisbane on the 27th of April. The State Convenor, Professor Helen Bartlett from the Australasian Centre on Ageing (ACA) hosted the event working closely with the coordinator, Mair Underwood, also from the ACA. Approximately 80 researchers, service providers, representatives of older people's organizations, and government representatives attended the symposium.

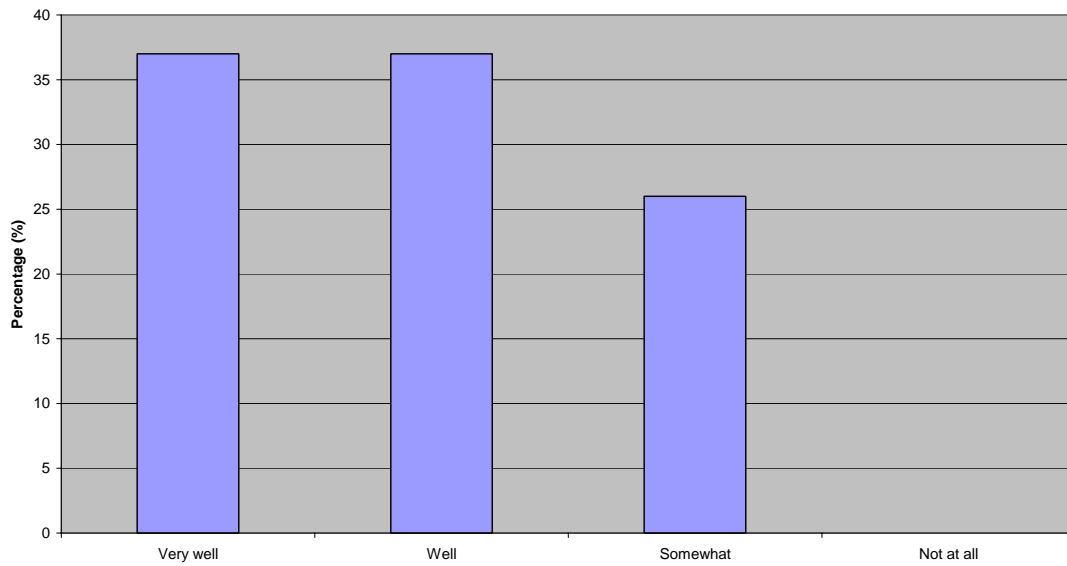
The day began with a welcome from Professor Bartlett. She was followed by Professor Hal Kendig (National Network Convenor) who explained how the network functioned and the progress it has made during its first year of operation.

The symposium brought together the key players in ageing research from across Queensland to talk about their research, to network, and to consider future research directions. Presenters were drawn from nearly every Queensland University (UQ, QUT, GU, USQ, ACU, CQU) and were broadly spread across the disciplines. The topics covered included: aged and community care, active ageing, cognition, cross-cultural issues, financial and workforce issues, education and technology, the built environment, injury prevention and biomolecular approaches.

The day provided a snapshot of current ageing research in Queensland. The symposium covered topics that are well established in ageing research, such as aged and community care, and injury prevention, but often from a new and innovative perspective (e.g. the clients' perspective on service provision, and web-based approaches to injury prevention). Other emerging areas of research, such as biomolecular approaches, and the impact of physical activity on cognition, were also featured. Whilst some presenters provided tips on collaboration based on past experience, others were looking for collaborators.

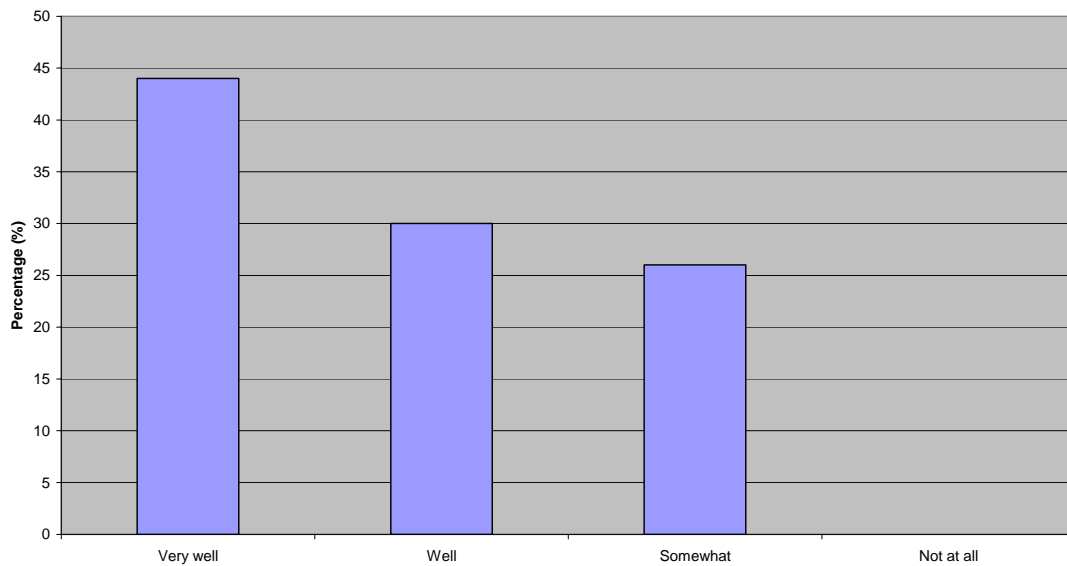
Delegates and presenters agreed that in general the symposium achieved its stated aims. All indicated that the day had succeeded in identifying opportunities for new and imaginative research connections (see figure 1).

Fig 1: How well did the symposium identify opportunities for new and imaginative research connections? (n=27)



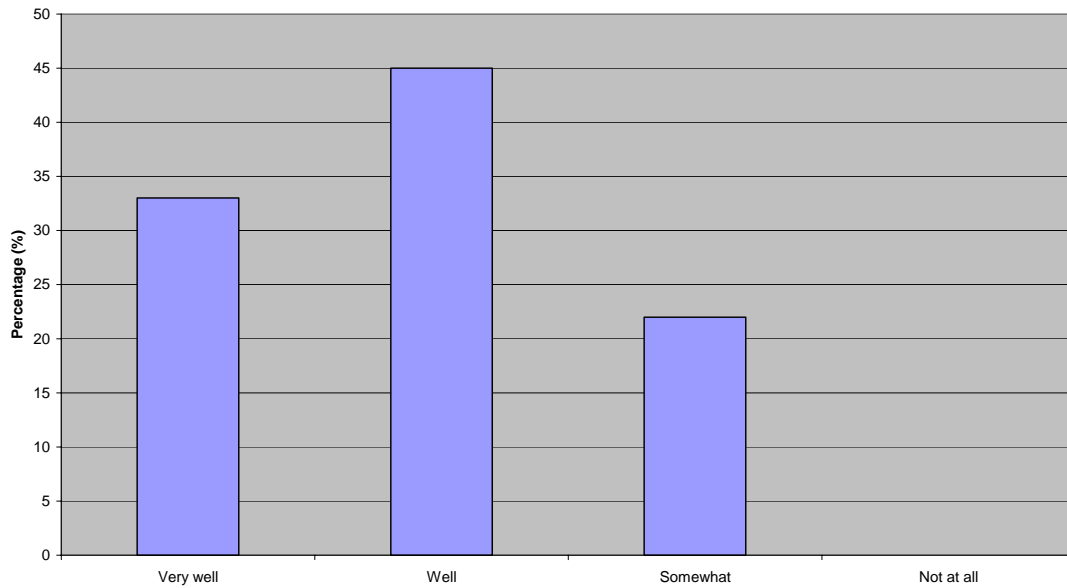
All delegates also agreed that the symposium had enhanced the scale and focus of national research activity, stimulated innovation, and supported researchers to connect with others (see figure 2).

Fig 2: How well did the symposium enhance scale & focus, stimulate innovation & support connection? (n=27)



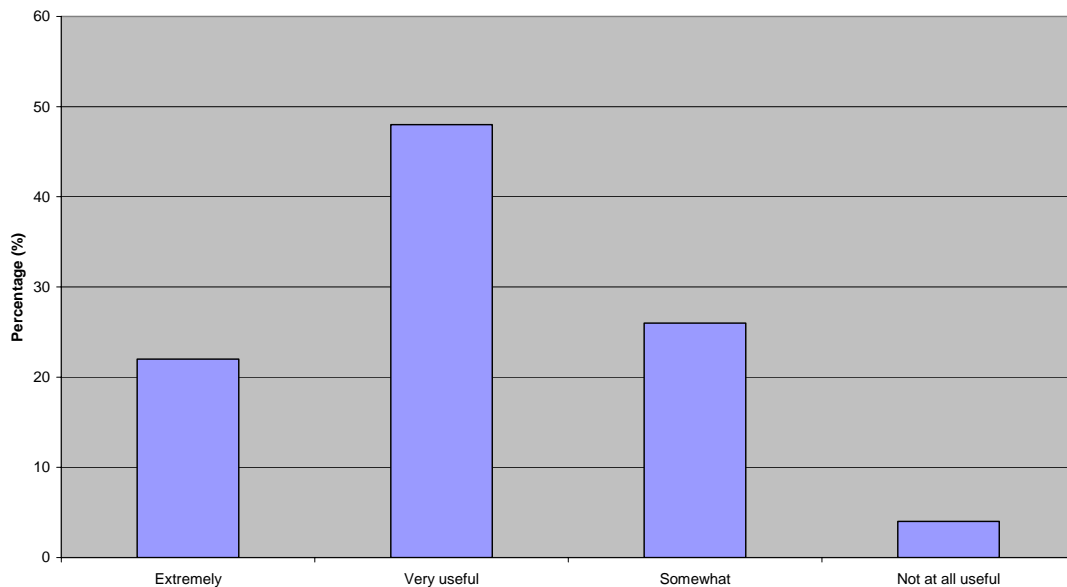
Everyone also agreed that the symposium identified areas of strength, opportunity and need where increased research effort would make a significant contribution to national wealth &/or well-being (see fig 3).

Fig 3: How well did the symposium identify & address areas of strength, opportunity or need? (n=27)



All but one agreed that the symposium was a useful networking opportunity, with the vast majority indicating that it was a 'very' or 'extremely' useful networking opportunity (see fig 4).

Fig 4: Was the symposium a useful networking opportunity? (n=27)



In fact the vast majority (approximately 90%) stated that as a result of the symposium they had made new contacts that they intended on following up in the future.

The concluding panel identified a number of strengths of ageing research in Queensland including its increasing breadth, sophistication, multidisciplinary, and the successful involvement of partners from numerous government agencies, service providers and other organizations. The panel also drew attention to a number of future

directions which were highlighted during the day including the need for increased multidisciplinary, multi-site and multi-level approaches, and increased community involvement in all stages of the research process. Attention was also drawn to topics that have been inadequately covered in Queensland ageing research such as indigenous ageing, the ageing of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, poverty and social inequalities. Disciplines that were inadequately represented were also mentioned, including law, demography, geography, political science, sociology and economics.

If you have any questions about this event, or future Queensland Network events please contact Mair Underwood on 3346 9156 or m.underwood@uq.edu.au.

Professor Helen Bartlett
State Convenor for Queensland



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