


Research and Aged and Community Care Collaborations Workshop Presentation by Prof Hal Kendig

Workshop run in collaboration with 

 **ARC/NHMRC Research Network
in Ageing Well**

**Hal Kendig
University Perspectives**

**RESEARCH AND AGED & COMMUNITY
CARE COLLABORATIONS WORKSHOP
6 June 2007**

www.ageingwell.edu.au

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How to find a researcher to collaborate with


- **Via the Ageing Well Network**
 - By searching our member lists as follows:
 - 50 Participants - www.ageingwell.edu.au/net_mem_participant.htm
 - 300 Members - www.ageingwell.edu.au/net_mem_associate.htm
 - Or send us an e-mail at ageingnet@usyd.edu.au.
- **Via the Ageing Research Online website**
 - www.aro.gov.au includes a searchable database of research projects
- **Via Expert Guide**
 - www.expertguide.com.au provides details of academics & professionals
- **Approach your local universities**
 - please see handout for details of web-based search facilities

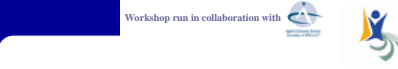
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Research involving students (1)

- The general aim of **research involving students is to build skills and experience** necessary to allow them to take up employment within research, policy or practice arena.
- The level of engagement with the industry partner and the potential benefits increases in **proportion** to the duration and complexity of the research project.
- Undergraduate and Honours projects do not involve any costs for the industry partner whereas **Masters and Ph.D projects will usually involve some direct costs** for the industry partner.
- If you are interested in a **student researcher** undertaking a specific project within your organisation you should **approach a relevant university or senior researcher**.


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Research involving students (2)

- The table below gives an overview of the major types of research involving students and the approximate duration of the research project.

Degree type	Degree duration	Project duration
Undergraduate degree	3 years	Short-term specific projects.
Honours	1 year fulltime following 3 year undergrad. degree	Approx 6 months active research.
Masters by Coursework	1.5 year fulltime or 3 years part-time	Approx 3-6 months active research (often limited scope such as literature reviews)
Master by Research	1 year fulltime or 2 years part-time	Approx 9 months full time
Professional Doctorate	3-4 years fulltime or 6-8 years part-time	Approx 2 years full time
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)	3-4 years fulltime or 6-8 years part-time	Approx 2 years full time ear

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Gerontology and Aged Care Courses Available in NSW

- Please refer to your handouts for more information on the specific courses available across the state
- In addition to these courses, there is a focus on aged care in health and other allied professions

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Research funding arrangements

- **Internal University-based research**
 - no longer as common as was previously the case with researchers now seeking more external funding
- **Industry-based research**
 - Action research
 - Contracts/consultancies
 - Research partnerships (the theme of the workshop)
- **Government funded research**
 - The government has two main funding bodies that support research within Australia
 - Australian Research Council (ARC)
 - National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
 - The most relevant funding opportunity for this workshop are the Linkage Project grants provided by the ARC

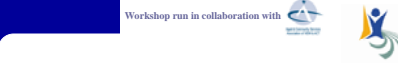
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Research funding arrangements: Linkage Projects summary


- The **Linkage Projects** scheme supports collaborative research between higher education organisations and other organisations, including within industry
- Linkage Projects aim to:
 - encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry
 - support collaborative research on issues of benefit to regional and rural communities
 - foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers within organisational setting and provide industry-oriented research training
- Applications for funding are processed twice a year.
- More information is available from the ARC website www.arc.gov.au

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Some tips for where to next

- Find the right academic for you (OK to shop around)
- Start early and plan ahead
- Clarify timeframes, scope, resource requirements, responsibility areas and when and where the research is made available
- Get agreements in writing (emails OK)

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Other references of interest

- Statement on Consumer and Community: Participation in Health and Medical Research by the NHMRC and Consumers' Health Forum
- Quine and Browning (in press) Methodological and Ethical Issues in Conducting Research with Older
- Tinker (2003) Older People and Ethics

All of the above are available at http://www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources_3.htm

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Copies of the handouts providing more information on these topics are provided overleaf

How to find a researcher to collaborate with

Below are a number of suggestions regarding how to locate suitable researchers to collaborate with. In addition to these suggestions, it is also worthwhile talking to others in the aged and community care sector that are already involved in research collaborations.

Via the Ageing Well Network:

The Ageing Well Network has over 50 Participants who are primarily senior researchers with a track record of ARC and NHMRC research grants with a commitment to multi-disciplinary, collaborative research on ageing.

A listing of all Participants including their institutions and areas of interest is available at http://www.ageingwell.edu.au/net_mem_participant.htm

In addition, the Network has over 300 Members who are researchers and others who have an interest in the activities of the Network. Members include a number of very experienced researchers as well as mid-career and early-stage researchers, postgraduate students and practitioners with an interest in ageing research.

A listing of all Members including their institutions and areas of interest is available at http://www.ageingwell.edu.au/net_mem_associate.htm

To locate a suitable researcher, you can either search the above lists and identify potential researchers either by their area of interest or by institution. While the above lists do not provide contact details, this information is readily found on the Staff directories available on each of the university websites (e.g. <http://www.usyd.edu.au/staff/directories/>).

Alternatively, send a query to the Network at ageingnet@usyd.edu.au and we will provide you with suggested researchers to contact.

Via the Ageing Research Online website:

The Department of Health and Ageing has developed the Ageing Research Online website (www.aro.gov.au) as a portal for information on ageing research. This website includes database of research projects which can be searched by topic area, researcher and institution and which includes the contact details for the researchers involved in each project.

Via the Expert Guide website:

Expert Guide (<http://www.expertguide.com.au/>) is a website that provides the details of thousands of academic and professional experts. While the listing is not exhaustive, it provides a useful starting point.

Via your local university:

Many universities have listings of experts within a different field, "Find and Expert" search functions etc, several of which were developed to assist journalists to find relevant researchers but which can also be used to identify potential research partners. Some useful links are as follows:

- Charles Sturt University
<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/experts.cfm>
- Macquarie University
<http://www.pr.mq.edu.au/journalists.htm>
- University of Newcastle
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/warp/level1/directory.html>
- University of New England
<http://www.une.edu.au/mpa/media/>
- University of New South Wales
<http://www.unsw.edu.au/experts/db.jsp>
- The University of Sydney
<http://ccadbw.corpstrat.usyd.edu.au/ne/search.html>
- University of Western Sydney
<http://corpapps.uws.edu.au/media/expert/index.php>

Research involving students

The general aim of research involving students is to build the skills and experience necessary to allow the student to take up employment within research, policy or practice arena. The table below gives an overview of the major types of research involving students and the approximate duration of the research project. Students often progress through several of the following degree types with Honours and Masters projects laying the groundwork for more detailed research within a Ph.D. In general, the level of engagement with the industry partner and the potential benefits to them increases in proportion to the duration and complexity of the research project. However, it should be noted that even in the case of short-term projects such as internships during undergraduate degrees, industry groups can benefit from the exposure of students to the broader industry setting. In general, Undergraduate and Honours projects do not involve any costs for the industry partner whereas Masters and Ph.D projects will usually involve some costs for the industry partner.

If you are interested in a student researcher undertaking a specific project within your organisation then you should approach a relevant university or senior researcher (see separate handout on *How to Find a Researcher*). There is usually several months lead time before a research topic can be set up and a suitable student identified so it is usually the case that projects do not commence until the year after initial contact is made. When in contact with the university, it is possible to negotiate critical issues like reporting timelines, access to findings etc.

Degree type	Degree duration	Degree aim	Project duration
Undergraduate degree	3 years	Some undergraduate degrees include research internships with community and residential care organisations	Short-term specific projects.
Honours	1 year full time following standard 3 year undergraduate degree	provide the foundations of research or research preparation and have identifiable discipline-specific individual research, scholarly or creative components	Approximately 6 months active research.
Masters by Coursework	1.5 years full time or three years part-time	Coursework Master degrees combine coursework with a minor research project. These are typically taken by candidates who are seeking to qualify in a particular professional discipline but also provide some exposure to research.	Approximately 3-6 months active research however this often limited in scope (such as a review of the existing literature)
Master by Research	one-year full-time or two-year part-time	These provide intermediate level training in research skills and practise with some research methods training and a substantial project. They will provide a solid foundation for entry into a Doctor of Philosophy program.	Approximately 9 months full time
Professional Doctorate	3-4 years full-time, 6-8 years part-time	The professional doctorate is designed to provide specific professional development for health professionals who wish to acquire the knowledge and skills required to assume leadership roles as health professional practitioners, e.g. program planners, clinical managers, and/or educators.	Approximately 2 years full time
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)	3-4 years full-time, 6-8 years part-time	The PhD is designed to provide graduates with the opportunity to undertake in-depth study in a specialised area. The PhD degree is important for academic appointments as well as for research appointments in government and industrial research and development organisations.	Approximately 2 years full time

Gerontology and Aged Care Courses Available in NSW

University	Degrees available	Contact person	Contact details
Charles Sturt University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Master of Health Science (Gerontology) 	Robin Harvey	Phone: (02) 6051 6831 Fax: (02) 6051 6973 Email: rbharvey@csu.edu.au Web: http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/gerontology/ http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/gerontology_master/
		Elizabeth MacKinlay	Phone: 02 6273 8551 Fax: 02 6273 4067 Email: emackinlay@csu.edu.au Web: http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/ageing_pastoral/
		Peter O'Meara	Phone: 02 6338 4090 Fax: 02 6338 4993 Email: pomeara@csu.edu.au Web: www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/aged_services_management_gc/
Macquarie University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Ageing and Health Postgraduate Certificate in Ageing and Health Postgraduate Diploma in Ageing and Health 	Elizabeth Latimer Hill	Phone: 02 9850 6197 Fax: 02 6773 3754 Email: elatimer@els.mq.edu.au Web: http://www.chiro.mq.edu.au/postgrad/a&hprograms.htm
University of Newcastle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Course on Ageing (Distance Education) (note: not run every year) 	Fiona McEwen	Phone: 02 4923 6321 Fax: 02 4923 6323 Email: Fiona.McEwan@newcastle.edu.au Web: www.niph.org.au
University of New England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Health Ageing and Community Services Graduate Certificates/Diploma/Master in Health Management Master of Health Sciences (with a major in gerontology) Research degrees 	Lyn Irwin`	Phone: 02 6773 3679 Fax: 02 6773 3666 Email: lirwin@une.edu.au Web: http://www.une.edu.au/health/programs/Gerontology.php
University of Sydney – Faculty of Health Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Applied Science (Gerontology) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Health Science (specialising in ageing and aged care) Master of Health Science (Major in Gerontology) Honours programs 	Cherry Russell	Phone: 02 9351 9129 Fax: 02 9351 9540 Email: c.russell@usyd.edu.au Web: www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/bach/gerontology or www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/hscd
CERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honours, Masters, and PhD courses available at the Centre for Education and Research on Ageing (CERA) 	David Le Couteur	Phone: 9767 7212 Fax: 9767 5419 Email: dlecouteur@med.usyd.edu.au Web: www.cera.usyd.edu.au
University of Western Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Diploma/Certificate/Master of Aged Care Management 	Diana Messum	Phone: (02) 4620 3745 Fax: (02) 4625 4252 Email: d.messum@uws.edu.au Web: http://handbook.uws.edu.au/hbook

The above information was extracted from course directory located on the Ageing Research Online website (see www.aro.gov.au/aro/courseSearch.do) and from the Education Guide 2005/06 produced by the Australian Association of Gerontology produced (see www.aag.asn.au/links/pdf_docs/EducationGuide.pdf).

Research funding arrangements

Internal University-based research

This is no longer as common as was previously the case with universities now competing more for external funding for research, including looking for collaborations with industry partners.

Industry-based research

- **Action research** – service providers conduct a wide range of research activities that are outside the traditional university perspective of research but provide valuable information at the coal face. Increased collaborations with industry will ensure that this knowledge is shared and incorporated into evidence-based practice.
- **Contracts/consultancies** – industry and constituency groups as well as government departments can employ researchers or hire consultants (including university researchers) to conduct specific projects, the outcomes of which are not always publicly available (more information is provided in a paper by Warwick Bruen on research consultancies available at www.ageingwell.edu.au/download/policy_colloquia/MorningWorkshop3_ResearchConsultancies.pdf)
- **Research partnerships** – this can be in the form of informal collaborations, involvement in ARC funded Linkage programs (see below) and formal ongoing partnerships between industry and university groups (the partnership between the University of Newcastle and UnitingCare Ageing is an example of this). This joint collaboration requires a sharing of research aims and activities and can be beneficial to both in terms of increased access to people, expertise etc.

Government funded research

The Commonwealth has identified the four National Research Priorities (NRPs) which underpin the research support it provided. The NRP most relevant to ageing is “Promoting and Maintaining Good Health” which includes the priority goal of “Ageing Well, Ageing Productively” (see www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/national_research_priorities).

The government has two main funding bodies that provide support research within Australia. The details of these two bodies are as follows:

- **Australian Research Council (ARC)**
The ARC has a range of funding schemes the most relevant of which are the **Linkage programs** (see http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm) which support collaborative research and development projects between higher education organisations and other organisations, including within industry, to enable the application of advanced knowledge to problems. The Linkage program aims to encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems, or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic or social benefits (a separate handout on the Linkage scheme has been provided).
- **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)**
The NHMRC has a range of funding programs including research fellowships, career development awards, project and program grant schemes and strategic awards (including the recent Dementia Research Grants (with the Department of Health and Ageing) and Ageing Well, Ageing Productively grants (with the ARC)) (see <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/list.htm> for more details on the above grant types).

Linkage Projects summary

(adapted from www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm and http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/LP08_FundingRules.pdf)

The *Linkage Projects* scheme supports collaborative research and development projects between higher education organisations and other organisations, including within industry, to enable the application of advanced knowledge to problems. Typically, research projects funded under the scheme involve risk.

Proposals for funding under *Linkage Projects* must involve a collaborating organisation from outside the higher education sector. The collaborating organisation must make a significant contribution (equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding), in cash and/or in kind, to the project.

To be an eligible Partner Organisation, an organisation must be:

- a. a private sector organisation;
- b. a private non-profit organisation; or
- c. a Government organisation – in general, State, Territory or Commonwealth Government organisations are eligible to participate as Partner Organisations where funds they are committing to the project have not previously been appropriated either for internal research-related activities or for any other purpose of research, research evaluation and/or consultancy.

Under the *Linkage Projects* scheme, the ARC offers postgraduate awards and fellowships to provide industry-oriented research training and enable postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research opportunities in collaboration with industry.

Linkage Projects awards and fellowships offered by the ARC are:

- *Australian Postgraduate Awards* (Industry), available for postgraduate research students.
- *Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships* (Industry), available for researchers with fewer than three years' postdoctoral experience at the closing date for applications.
- *Linkage Industry Fellowships*, which enable the temporary transfer of a researcher to a project partner organisation.

In recommending funding for proposals under *Linkage Projects*, the ARC may take into consideration the likely benefit of the research to Australian regional and rural communities.

Linkage Projects aims to:

- encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems, or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic or social benefits
- support collaborative research on issues of benefit to regional and rural communities
- foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with industry, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high quality research
- provide industry-oriented research training to prepare high-calibre postgraduate research students
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.

Applications for funding under the *Linkage Projects* scheme are processed twice a year.

In general, an application will be completed by the university partner with the industry partner required to provide supporting documentation. More information is available from the ARC website, including the following specific topics to do with the application process.

Funding Rules	http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingrules.htm
Funding Agreement	http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingagreement.htm
Instructions to applicants	http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_instructions.htm
Sample Application Form	http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/sample_forms.htm
Funding Outcomes	http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_outcomes.htm
Application closing dates	http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/closing_dates.htm
Reporting requirements	http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/reported_requirements.htm