

# **‘How the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well Can Add Value’**

**Hal Kendig  
National Convenor**

**21 March 2006**

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**Ageing Well in SA:  
A Research Network in Ageing Well  
Forum**



# Overview

1. Are We Moving to a New Research World?
2. Network Objectives and Are they Feasible?
3. What the Network Does and Can Do?
4. Different Views:
  - a) Another State
  - b) A Service Provider
  - c) Emerging Researchers on Ageing
5. Network Issues and Directions



# 1. 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?



## 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** to do research)



## 2b. Ageing Well Network Objectives

- To lead and facilitate **collaboration** in **multi-disciplinary, large scale** research
- To facilitate **international** research involvement
- To build **capacities and excellence** in ageing studies through support and mentoring
- 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



### **3. What the Network Does:**

#### **a. Themes and Working Groups**

- **Theme Approaches (setting agendas & building)**  
**(eg Productivity and Economic Security)**
- **Working Groups**
  - **Aboriginal Ageing**  
**Tony Broe & Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver, UNSW**
  - **Aged Care services**  
**Hal Kendig, Duncan Boldy, Len Gray**
  - **Rural Ageing or ??**
  - **Bio-psycho-social connections?**



## 3b. 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)



## **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**

# **4a State-based Views of the Network: WA Experience**

**Professor Duncan Boldy**  
**Curtin University of  
Technology**

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**WA State Convenor**



## 4ai Broad Aim of State hubs

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

DB

2006



# 4ai WA Symposium on Ageing

## Overall Aim:

To identify opportunities for new and imaginative research connections

## Specifically to:

- Facilitate ways in which existing research could be enhanced (82% agreed much/very much)
- Identify areas of ageing research not/ inadequately covered (65% much/very much)
- Discuss disciplines not/inadequately represented (64% much/very much)

DB

2006



## 4iii Foci for other States

- Victoria: Mobility research?
- Tasmania: Rural focus?
- New South Wales: Industry Connections?
- South Australia: Healthy Ageing
- Queensland: .....

HK

## **4b A service provider's view of the Network**

**Barbara Squires**  
**Centre for Ageing**  
**Benevolent Society**

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**Chair, Advisory Group**

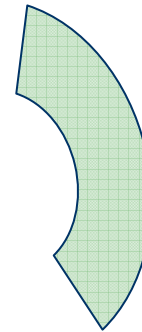
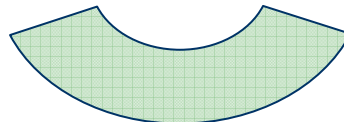
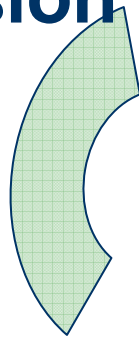
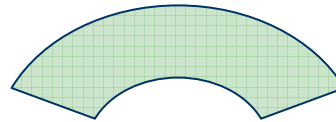


**Practice/  
provision**

**Research**

**Policy**

**Dissemination/  
education**





## 4b 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”

BS



## 4b Role of Advisory Group

- Provide advice on priority research needs
- Promote research partnerships (Linkages)
- Communicate with key individuals and organisations
- Provide review and feedback on network activities

BS



## **4b Building Research Partnerships**

- **Aged and Community Services Australia  
Groundrules and Opportunities**
- **National Seniors Centre for Productive  
Ageing (Consumer-led research)**
- **Policymakers (National and State)**

**How can we learn once and apply many times?**

## **4c Network strategies to support emerging researchers**

**Professor Helen Bartlett,  
Director**

**Australasian Centre on  
Ageing**

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**The University of Queensland**



## 4c 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



## 4c The National Emerging Researchers in Ageing Study (NERAS)

### PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Helen Bartlett & Mair Underwood  
Australasian Centre on Ageing  
The University of Queensland



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA  
2006



## 4c 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



## 5. Network Issues and Directions

- Building a Vision of Ageing Well
- Building Coalitions for development
- Advocacy for Investing in Research
- Can Older People Provide a Lead?
- Will Ageing Research Become Mainstream?



## 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)