



ILC-Australia 2021 Biannual Report

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

As a consortium of researchers and representatives, ILC-Australia enhances national collaborations across many institutions concerned for older people. Together we have been working on:

- Improving care for people with dementia
- Housing for older Australians
- Long term care
- Healthy Ageing
- Ageism

IAGG ASIA OCEANIA Special Interest Group

The AAG hosted a workshop “Being active players in the Asia/Oceania and global aging communities”

Within a global community, Australia and Australian scholars in gerontology and geriatrics have an important role in sharing with and learning from and with other countries. This workshop provided:

- perspectives of Australia’s role in the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics at the regional (Asia Oceania) and global level, and as well as other global roles including the ILC Global Alliance and representations to the WHO and United Nations;
- some examples of current research being undertaken within the Asia Oceania region;
- some perspectives of future engagement by individuals, organisations and the AAG within the Asia Oceania region; and
- opportunities to discuss strengthening the AAG Asia Oceania SIG, as well as strategies for individuals, especially early career researchers, practitioners and educators, to build regional linkages

HUNTER AGEING ALLIANCE

Age-friendly communities mean that planning takes the needs of older people into account, recognising that older people have the same desire to remain physically, intellectually, and socially active as younger people. This requires environmental adaptation, appropriate housing at all levels of affordability, easy access to information about services and facilities for older people, protection from elder abuse, health care services appropriate to the needs of older people and support for socially isolated people to ensure their physical and psychological well-being.

The HAA’s goal is to register Newcastle and Lake Macquarie within the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities. To this end, members of the HAA will work with all levels of government, statutory authorities, and NGOs on:

- The environment – including public spaces, transport, and access for people with disabilities
- Appropriate housing – Including social housing, communal housing, and emergency housing
- Elder abuse – awareness, assessment, and prevention
- Health services – particularly the assessment and management of dementia and chronic diseases
- Social isolation – securely identify isolated older people and provide for their physical and psychological well-being
- Ageing and aged care services information – ensuring accessibility
- End-of-life legal planning and health care – ensuring availability to all

These programs will help transform Newcastle and Lake Macquarie into communities which older people would be attracted to live or visit as tourists. Creating significant economic and social opportunities for the Hunter, as well as benefiting our older population.

Find out more about the HAA [here](#).



To achieve our goals we have been working with the Newcastle City Council to establish their Local Social Strategic plan. To help guide our actions, we invited members of the community and various organisations to come together to consider creative solutions to five priority problems:

- Overcoming social isolation and creating connections
- Affordable, age-friendly housing
- Employment, education, and community participation opportunities past age 50
- Education, training and employment opportunities in the aged-care sector and other services.
- Services for older people and how to access them (including, but not limited to formal aged care)

Other priorities identified during the workshop included inclusive social services; inclusive and accessible public transport; affordable and inclusive facilities/spaces; access to information and effective communication; social connection and connection to place; inclusion and diversity; and a perceived lack of events and activations.



Policy Papers

On 31 July 2020, AAG published its Position Paper: Wellness and reablement for all Australians receiving home, community and residential aged care services. The aim of this paper is to provide clear direction to the Australian Government, policymakers and service providers on the core principles of wellness and reablement in aged care that must be upheld in order to meet the needs, strengths and preferences of Australians as they age.

<https://www.aag.asn.au/news-publications/policy-papers/aag-position-paper-wellness-and-reablement-for-all-australians>

On 31 July 2020, AAG published a Position Paper on aged care workforce, funding and governance. The Government has a responsibility to act as a system steward and ensure taxpayer-funded aged care services are underpinned by evidence-based policy with a human-rights rather than a market-based foundation.

<https://www.aag.asn.au/news-publications/policy-papers/aag-position-paper-aged-care-workforce-funding-and-governance>

In March 2020, AAG developed a Background Paper titled "Use of primary health care by older Australians; Issues and opportunities" for a roundtable on 12 March 2020 in Perth to inform the development of the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan

<https://www.aag.asn.au/news-publications/policy-papers/aag-background-paper--primary-care-and-older-australians>

AAG is one of 55+ orgs calling for strong #climatehealth action to protect us all from the escalating health threat from climate change

<https://www.aag.asn.au/news/open-letter-to-prime-minister-scott-morrison-calling-for-more-ambitious-action-on-climate-change-to-protect-health>

On 9 November 2021, AAG provided a brief overview of the preliminary findings from its 'Rapid Evidence Assessment: Research on Heatwaves and Older People in Australia', as part of the presentation by Sophia Dimitriadis, Senior Economist at ILC UK, at 'Designing for your future self: No time to waste' event. This event was curated by the Design Age Institute, hosted at London's Design Museum and live-streamed as part of the Design Council's Design for Planet Festival's programme, in the shadow of COP-26 in Glasgow.

In October 2021 The National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) has called for systemic reform of home care for older Australians, to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the system.

<https://www.nari.net.au/news/comprehensive-reform-of-home-care-system-desperately-needed>

AGEISM

The Every Age Counts campaign continues to advocate for the rights of older people and end to ageism, with a recent focus on digital equity in line with the UN IDOP 2021 theme. The campaign also initiated and delivered Australia's first, hugely successful Ageism Awareness Day on 1 October. <https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/>

Dr Helen Barrie has been shortlisted for the South Australian Community Achievement award for her work in combatting ageism.

Debate

ILC-Aus contribute to the Global debate on ICD-11 codes for old age and age-related conditions. Julie Byles, Kiran Rabheru and Ales Kalache prepared a background paper which has been uploaded to the WHO proposal platform. at:

<https://icd.who.int/dev11/proposals/f/icd/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2fcd%2fentity%2f1843895818>

AAG also sponsored a debate on these issues during the President's Symposium "Can we die of old age?" This symposium aims to bring some informed debate around the concepts of ageing into this discussion, including from bio-psycho-social, evolutionary biology and molecular/genetics perspectives, as well as the epidemiological and human rights perspective, (with the latter presented by Julie Byles). A video of Julie's talk is available on request.

<https://aag.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/conf2021/programinformation/Agenda/AgendaItemDetail?id=ab4d9ad8-c033-4e70-a38c-a935d05c6d3b>

OTHER NEW ENTERPRISES

Federation University and Monash University are partnering on the ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Optimal Ageing. Led by Monash University, the Centre is training ERCs and MCRs in the application of digital approaches to optimal aging. Federation University will focus on social connectedness, and workforce development for digital mental health services.

<https://www.monash.edu/engineering/robotics/news-and-events/latest-news/funding-for-a-new-training-centre-for-optimal-ageing>

Helen Barrie has joined University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) with a small network of global colleagues to form the Global Center for Ageing, focussed on developing rights-based gerontology education programs. The Center was launched at the IFA 2021 conference.

Helen Barrie is a member of the 'Ageing Well Strategic Research Agenda' Steering Committee, which has a focus on developing a strong research agenda for the South Australian Government Office for Ageing Well. This will include two co-design workshops for researchers, policy makers and service providers to work on the state agenda. Over 70 people attended the first workshop

CEPAR PhD PRIZE

Dr MIJANUR RAHMAN won the **HAL KENDIG prize** for best Thesis:

Modelling trajectories of aged care use among older Australian women Supervisor:

Professor Julie Byles Co-supervisor: A/Professor Liz Holliday

SEMINARS AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- A caring world – responding to the impact of the coronavirus on long-term care. An ILC Global Alliance webinar. 18 June 2020.
- A Decade of Healthy Ageing? What good looks like and how we get there? International Longevity Centre UK Webinar. 23 July 2020.
- Healthy Ageing: Planning for a long and healthy life. Hunter Medical Research Institute Facebook livestream. 12 August 2020. (Julie Byles with Professor Kichu Nair)
- Byles J. Healthy Ageing: A Wide window of opportunity, and long tail of prevention. Australian Government Department of Health Seminar, 24 November 2020.
- Byles, J. (participant) 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65). 15-26 March 2021.
- Byles, J. . (participant) 11th Session of the United Nations (UN) Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing. UN General Assembly. 29 March – 1 April 2021.
- Byles, J. Expert roundtable: Delivering prevention in an ageing world: Inspire and engage. ILC-UK Webinar. 18 March 2021.
- Byles, J. The Natural History of Ageing. 9 June 2021. Hunter Region Botanic Gardens. Newcastle, NSW, Australia.
- Byles J., Carmel, S., Harding, S., Kalula. S., Bendien, E., Hanson, L. Why gender matters – Exploring the impact of gender on health and wellbeing in an ageing world. ILC-Global Alliance Webinar. 2 June 2021.
- Byles, J., Waters, D., Christiani, Y., Goel, A., Harding, S., Assantachai. P., Chan, D. Asia-Oceania Symposium: From Covid-19 to a decade of healthy ageing. IAGG Pre-Congress E-Conference. 23 June 2021.
- Byles, J. Creating a socially just, inclusive and age friendly city. City of Newcastle and Hunter Ageing Alliance Workshop. 5 August 2021.
- WHO ICD-11 “Old Age” discussion document writing group – Byles, Kalache, Rhaberu, October 2021
- Multi-country cross-sectional and longitudinal studies to quantify unmet needs for health and social care among older people, Byles and Kowal, WHO Kobe Centre, 2021
- Build Back Better World for Older Women: Good Practices to Ensure Health and Income Security in the Post Pandemic Era 26th October 2021 Julie Byles, with HelpAge India in association with Development Welfare Research Foundation
- International Longevity Centre – Global Alliance: International Committee, Gender and Ageing Committee, COVID-19 report writing group, LTC research group, Positive Aspects of Caregiving research group.
- IFA 2021 Conference workshop: ‘Addressing Ageism and Ensuring Older People’s Rights: An Agenda for Global Education and Training’ November 11th 2021, Helen Barrie with Kelly Fitzgerald and Dana Burr for the UMBC Global Center on Ageing.