



NT... COMING OF AGE

Issue 1, August 2011

Welcome to the First Edition of our Newsletter

Our Origins

Many of you attended the very successful AAG Northern Territory Conference "The Ageing North" in Darwin last year.

From its success and the enthusiasm generated to raise the profile of ageing issues in the NT, the Australian AAG proposed that the NT develop its own Division. South Australia had previously been responsible for the NT, under a SA/NT Division.

The Inaugural Meeting of the of the Australian Association of Gerontology Northern Territory (NT) Division was held via Teleconference on Thursday 4th November 2010. At this meeting all attendees voted VOTE to accept National Council rules and Committee members were nominated and duly elected.

Who We are

The AAG NT Division Executive is drawn from nominees who volunteer their services. Because of their past or current employment they provide expertise in many aspects of gerontology. These include aged care assessment, aged care psychiatry, academic research, tertiary education, workplace education, community education and service delivery organisations, government policy advice and administration.

The Executive Committee meets regularly to plan and arrange educational and

President: **Melissa Lindeman**
Vice President: **Peter Brown**
Treasurer: **Marianne Cummins**
Secretary: **Catherine Brown**

Committee members: **Janice Diamond (Newsletter collator)**
Caroline Phillips
Judy Ratajec (Membership officer)
Ruth Leslie-Rose
Pascale Dettwiller
Gill Brearley

How to Contact Us

Secretary **Catherine Brown** : **catherine.brown@nt.gov.au**
President **Melissa Lindeman** : **melissa.lindeman@flinders.edu.au**
Newsletter **Janice Diamond** : **janice.diamond@nt.gov.au**

Official Launch of the AAG NT Division

**Launch of the NT Division sponsored
by Minister for Senior Territorians,
Minister Rob Knight**

**Guest Speaker: Dr Michael Lowe,
Geriatrician**

Date: 12 August 2011

Time: 4pm

Venue: NT Parliament House

For further information contact:
[Catherine Brown](#)

AAG NT AGM

Date: 12th August.

Time: 8.30 am

Venue for Darwin Members:
Casuarina Plaza Level 1A ACAT office

Venue for Members outside of Darwin:
Via Tele/Video Conferencing

PEOPLE in PROFILE



Melissa Lindeman
President
AAG NT Division

Melissa's introduction to aged care was as a program advisor and later policy officer for the Victorian government in the early 1990's. This is where her passion for the sector, particularly community care and the HACC program, began.

She also spent four years as a Research Fellow at the National Ageing Research Institute in Melbourne, before joining Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, where she coordinated the aged care programs amongst other things.

She is currently Head of Research at the Centre for Remote Health – Flinders University in Alice Springs. Her recent research and professional development projects have focussed on Indigenous aged care and dementia services, and she also teaches in the Flinders University postgraduate programs in remote health practice.

She has been involved in research and training in community care assessment for many years in both Victoria and the Northern Territory.

“The establishment of the AAG in the NT provides an important vehicle for the advancement of aged care and ageing issues that are specific to our region”.

PEOPLE in PROFILE



Peter Brown
Vice President
AAG NT Division

I have worked in various universities in NSW over a 25 year span as a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Assistant Head of School, Associate Professor and currently as Acting Head, School of Health Sciences, Charles Darwin University. Specialty content areas and interests include mental health problems in old age, aged care and mental health, having lectured in and coordinated these specialties in both under-graduate and graduate nursing courses and a multidisciplinary post-graduate course in psychiatry of old age at the NSW Institute of Psychiatry. I have edited three textbooks on aged care and presented numerous conference papers nationally and internationally. Most recently, I am co-lead writer of a US textbook on Mental Health Nursing due for publication 2012. I am a member of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia Health and Wellness in Ageing Faculty and the Dementia Study Centre, AA, SA and NT. My PhD focused on older husbands' experiences associated with providing care for wives with dementia at home.

I have been a member of the Australasian Association of Gerontology for many years and have attended various national conferences. I was excited to be involved in the formation of AAG, NT as this represented a coming together of colleagues who also share an interest in various aspects of aged care. The launch of AAG at Parliament House should be a memorable occasion.

I am hoping that AAG, NT will assist health professionals, in clinical, community and residential settings, to develop a deeper understanding of the health care needs of older adults through the provision of educational workshops and seminars.

Information on Courses Available via Centre for Remote Health, Flinders University

Courses available for practitioners in Indigenous aged and community care

The **Graduate Certificate in Remote Health Practice** offered by the Centre for Remote Health, Flinders University aims to prepare health professionals to work with the people and professionals of remote areas to keep remote and Indigenous people well and manage ill-health. It aims to provide education at a foundational level across three major content areas that underpin practice within the discipline of Remote Health locally, nationally and internationally. Core topics are **Contexts of Remote & Indigenous Health** and **Remote & Indigenous Primary Health Care**.

- Two new electives can be selected that specifically deal with issues related to dementia, ageing and disability issues in remote and Indigenous communities. These are **Working with People with Disability in Remote and Indigenous Communities** and
- **Recognizing and Responding to Dementia in Indigenous Communities**.

The latter is designed specifically for health practitioners who are working with Indigenous people who may have dementia and their carers. Students are challenged to translate current evidence into practice, developing skills and knowledge in Indigenous dementia care and management, including the validated Kimberly Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (KICA) tool. Students will also identify their on-going learning and professional development needs in relation to dementia care and identify resources and professional networks available to them.

The electives can be undertaken as accredited subjects or as fee-paying short courses. Courses are normally run in Alice Springs, with some on-line components.

For more information visit <http://www.crh.org.au> or phone (08) 89514700 (ask for Heather Jensen or Melissa Lindeman).

Journal Club

Journal Club to Commence

This is a new venture for like minded practitioners interested in developing their practice in quality outcomes for older people.

The goal is to explore new and revised Evidence Based Practice (EBP) for working with older people.

The purpose

- to link journal articles to exploration and development of practice and skills
- to increase ability to critically evaluate research

Ability to video-link Alice Springs and Darwin participants is being explored.

First meeting is proposed for September.

To express interest and receive possible guidelines for the new club

Email: gillian.brearley@nt.gov.au

Event Reviews

ALICE SPRINGS

The first AAG Event co-badged with General Practice Network NT and Partners and Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) was held on 30th June.

The Event was very well received with people having to be turned away as the room would not fit any more in.

The Event flyer and Tony's PowerPoint presentation are on the AAG NT Webpage for viewing.

(<http://www.aag.asn.au/northern-territory.php>)



DARWIN

This very successful 2-Day forum was held in Darwin in May. Great attendance and good representation across Acute Care, Community Care and Remote . Evaluation reports were very positive.



Let's spread the AAG word

The AAG is Australia's largest multidisciplinary professional association of people who work in, or have an interest in, ageing.

Our diverse membership includes health professionals, academics, government representatives, providers and staff of aged care services, policy analysts, support workers, researchers from the social and medical sciences, administrators, voluntary agencies, students, and older people themselves.

This multidisciplinary perspective is one of the key strengths of our association - if you are interested in ageing, we welcome your involvement and encourage you to join.

The NT AAG Division has the opportunity to develop in a unique way that meets the needs of our members across the territory.

Do you know someone or have colleagues with an interest in the ageing.

Let's get the word out there we are an aging territory and this is our time. The NT is now "Coming of Age".

New members are welcome!!

If you would like more information log onto www.aag.asn.au

Regards
Judy Ratajac
Membership Officer