



Australian Association of Gerontology Inc. (Victorian Division)

PRESS RELEASE

Creating an Aged-Friendly Environment

37th Annual Conference

Hilton on the Park, Melbourne – 17 to 19 November 2004

Modern technology and innovative building design could hold the future to how Australia cares for its ageing population, judging by the speakers' topics for a special symposium at the forthcoming Australian Association of Gerontology annual conference in Melbourne.

The keynote speaker at the symposium will be renowned Melbourne architect and the City of Melbourne's Ambassador for Architecture Prof Dimity Reed, whose topic is "The age of institutions is over for the disabled, so why is it being re-invented for our Tribal Elders". It will focus on keeping older people out of aged care institutions – something that can only be achieved if homes are suitably designed, with relevant technology and have adequate care available

The importance of keeping older people in their own homes for as long as possible – "Ageing in your own place" is widely recognised as one of the most important ways of maintaining personal dignity, as well as containing costs. Speakers Dr Laurie Wilson, of the CSIRO ICT Centre in Sydney and John Fennell, CEO, Copper Development Centre, will address the role of technology in their presentations "Hospitals without walls" and "Major trends and technologies in the building and construction industries to 2025" respectively.

The symposium, to be held on Friday, 19 November, is in recognition of the Year of the Built Environment 2004. It has as its theme "Addressing issues related to the future development of built environments and physical infrastructures which are compatible with an ageing population".

The symposium is on the final day of the 37th national conference of the AAG, at the Hilton on the Park in Melbourne from 17 - 19 November. This year's conference theme is "*Maturing Assets: appreciating an Ageing Australia*".

Other symposium presentations will include:

- ❖ Housing for Older Australians
- ❖ Designing Adaptable Residential Living Environments for our Elders
- ❖ Designing new housing solutions for Australia's Baby Boomers
- ❖ Universal Access in Public Places
- ❖ Creating Accessible Communities – from Policy to Reality
- ❖ Growing Older in 'The Age of Surveillance'

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(This conference has been endorsed as an event to celebrate the YBE 2004)

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