



## **ILC-Australia interim update May 2020**

### **Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health COVID-19 rapid survey**

In late April, researchers led by Professor Julie Byles, launched a series of fortnightly mini online surveys to around 38000 women in three cohorts of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH), now aged in their twenties, forties, and seventies. These surveys will provide a snapshot about women's wellbeing, from across the country, and across generations. The aim is to provide a rapid turnaround between submission of surveys and production of results to inform ongoing policies and provide information that can help with understanding how rapid policy changes are impacting on women's health and wellbeing. The ALSWH is in its 25th year and collects data from over 57,000 women from across Australia, with the oldest cohort of women now in their 90s. Data are routinely linked with health services data and provide the most comprehensive view of women's health and wellbeing in Australia. Results inform policy and practice in women's health.

### **COVID-19 Response in Residential Aged Care**

We are working with colleagues in the Hunter New England Local Health District to conduct qualitative research to understand the experiences of older people in residential aged care facilities, their families and the staff providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Project proposal developed for major funding scheme**

ILC-Aus colleagues came together in early 2020 to develop a project proposal for funding under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Frontier Health and Medical Research Program Stage One. The research program will provide grants to a total of \$1 million in stage 1, and up to \$20 million in stage 2, to 10 multi-disciplinary teams including research and industry partners to work on novel and transformative ideas that will produce practical benefits to Australians and also globally. Our proposed project aims to create evidence-based data-driven interactive technologies that transform how people respond to changes as they age, encourage healthy behaviours, strengthen people's personal and social resources, and connect to a co-designed system that and enables effective support in older age.

### **Grant Proposal on Long Term Care submitted to Australian Research Council**

As a result of the work commenced during the Research Workshop hosted by ILC Singapore in 2018, the LTC working party, led by Julie Byles amended and re-submitted a grant proposal to the Australian Research Council in February to complete the next phase of the project. The aim of this research is to develop an international framework for describing and classifying Long Term Care (LTC) systems in different countries according to their ability to meet the needs of older people. We further aim to use this framework to identify examples of best practice and innovation in LTC systems, and to identify potential to transfer specific elements of LTC across different settings. This research is designed to strengthen our understanding of how LTC is delivered across the world, and to enhance the ability to learn from each other and adopt best practice examples to improve the wellbeing of people in later life.

### **Bolton Clarke resident satisfaction survey**

The Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing at the University of Newcastle is working with the Bolton Clarke Research Institute to validate the Bolton Clarke Aged Care Resident Experience Survey. The survey was designed by Bolton Clarke to provide insights into the satisfaction and experience of residents (or, for those residents who are unable to provide feedback, their families and/or carers).

### **Live well, age well**

Funding from the Cromwell Foundation has enabled the Research Center for Generational Health and Ageing and Bolton Clarke to and work in partnership with residents on the Live Well, Age Well project to co-design a wellbeing program to improve health outcomes for older people living in retirement communities. We have also engaged with our broader ILC-Aus partners in order to help set the priorities for expansion of the project

### **Forum on Healthy Ageing**

In January, the Centre for Excellence in Population Ageing Research hosted a forum on Healthy Ageing. Speakers included Dr John Beard and Professor Julie Byles.

**AAG Webinar:**

In April the AAG hosted a webinar on **exploring the impacts of social distancing on older adults.**

**Letters to the Editor in support of older people and COVID-19 x 2**

<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1141/rr-10>

<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1141/rr-9>