

AAG SECG NEWSLETTER



AAG
Australian
Association of
Gerontology

SECG
Student and
Early Career
Group



IMAGE BY MARCIA GRIMM

Welcome to the June/July AAG SECG Newsletter

As we reach the midpoint of 2025, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your continued engagement and support of the SECG.

This year has already been filled with fantastic momentum—our state reps have been busy organising exciting events across the country, and we’re grateful for their energy and creativity. Our Professional Development team has delivered a series of well-attended and insightful webinars, while the Communications team has worked hard behind the scenes to keep everyone up to date with SECG news and opportunities. A special thanks to those who joined our recent Helen Barrie Award webinar, which was a great success.

Meanwhile, our Conference team has been working tirelessly to prepare for the AAG Conference in Alice Springs this November. I can't wait to see many of you there and celebrate all that we've achieved together.

There's plenty more to come! Stay tuned for the second half of the year!

Dr Kate Wang
AAG SECG President



Contents:

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| President's Welcome |
| AAG and SECG Updates |
| Ageing together, separately |
| Grants, Mentoring, and opportunities |
| Survey help! |

AAG & SECG UPDATES

REGULAR SECG CATCHUPS

AAG VIC SECG MONTHLY WEBINAR

9th July, Wednesday, 12pm AEST via Zoom

AAG Victorian Division SECG are excited to announce the continuation of the AAG VIC SECG monthly webinar series in 2025, building on the success and positive feedback they received. The 30-minute webinars (20-min talk followed by 10-min Q&A) will be held monthly from 12.00-12.30pm AEST/AEDT on the second Wednesday of each month.

The presenter in July is Suzy Byers on the topic of **Social Support Networks in Later Life**.

[Visit here for more information.](#)

AAG VIC SECG RAPID FIRE PRESENTATION EVENT

8th October, Weds, 12pm AEST via Zoom

We warmly invite current members of the AAG Victorian Student and Early Career Group (SECG), including those who have presented at our monthly webinars, to register for our Rapid Fire Presentation event. Presenters will have 3 minutes to showcase their work, and there will be a Best Presentation award. Please submit your EOI to secure your spot as a presenter.

Please register [HERE](#) to receive the Zoom link for the online event.



ECR Project Opportunity – Network Survey

The AAG Victorian Industry Partnership Sub-Committee is planning a national network survey to map the organisational partnerships of AAG members. This will inform future engagement with industry and community sectors. We are looking for a researcher—ideally with interest or experience in social network analysis—to assist with conducting the survey. The researcher would be supervised and may need to learn the network survey method.

If interested, please contact Dr Katrina Long (katrina.long@monash.edu) or Dr Elizabeth Brooke (Chair, Victorian Industry Partnership Sub-Committee, ebrooke425@gmail.com).



AAG Conference 2025 Bursaries

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Find out what your State Division offers by way of financial assistance to attend the conference [HERE](#) (up to \$1,500!):

- NSW (closing 4th Jul)
- QLD (closing 18th Jul)
- VIC (closing 31st Jul)
- ACT (closing 8th Aug)
- TAS (closing 30th Aug)
- WA (closing 30th Sep)
- NT (closing 10th Oct)

Look out for the Arthur Everitt award for student members. Open from 1 August to 11th October 2025.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Let us know!



UPCOMING AAG EVENTS

2025 IAGG AOR WEBINAR: Behavioural modification interventions to improve quality of ageing
11th August, Monday, 1pm AEST via Zoom

There is good evidence for many different actions that older people can undertake to improve their health and wellbeing, at all stages of the health spectrum. However there are many barriers and factors influencing how much and how well older people do incorporate these interventions into their everyday lives. Doing this successfully requires behaviour change, which is not easy and can require support to achieve.

This webinar explores international examples and perspectives on approaches to achieve positive behavioural change and physical and cognitive health outcomes for older people and their carers.

This webinar is conducted by the Social and Behavioural Science sub-committee of the Asia Oceania Region of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.aag.asn.au/EventDetail?EventKey=WEB250811>

AAG VICTORIA Bring-a-friend Meet Up
14th August, Thursday, 5.30pm AEST @ The Glasshouse Melbourne

Based on the success of previous events, the Victorian Division Executive Committee is delighted to invite you to another Vic social event. Bring a non-member and introduce them to our wonderful network – while having the opportunity to catch up with AAG friends old and new.

More information and register here:

<https://www.aag.asn.au/EventDetail?EventKey=VIC250814>

Ageing Together, Separately

by Debbie Pu

My mum compares her parents' different living (and in turn, ageing) styles in terms of the classic fable of the tortoise and the hare. Waipo (grandma on mum's side) is the tortoise, slow and steady, deliberate and careful. Waigong (grandpa on mum's side) is the hare, athletic and speedy, often full steam ahead in everything he does.

This is true on the surface. Waipo likes Taichi, and used to practice daily when she was more steady on her feet. Waigong enjoys table tennis, and puts out strokes that make many opponents (often much younger) scramble to defend. Waipo approaches any pedestrian crossing and stairs slowly and with care, tapping ahead with her cane to check in all directions that everything is stable and safe. Waigong just goes. At quite the pace. While our yells of "be careful!" fall on deaf ears, literally, since he's not great with wearing his hearing aids.



Yet, there are moments that show the synchronicity displayed only by two people who have shared their lives for 70 odd decades and known each other for even longer. This photo was captured last year on a sunny winter's day. It was time for waipo's monthly haircut, and the resident hairdresser got ready. Place the chair at a bright spot near the balcony with lots of natural light, check. Old newspapers on the floor to catch the unwanted hairs, check. Old shower curtain as a makeshift cape to keep the hairs off the customer's jumper, check. Pair of scissors that I was later told was even older than the hairdresser, check. Razor blade to clean up the edges, check.

The end results? A perfect bowl cut on a 98 year old tortoise-coded lady.

Happy customer? Check. Not sure if she tipped, though.

By his own admission, waigong has very different hobbies and lifestyle choices compared to his wife. He once said to me, (too) loudly due to not wearing his hearing aids, that waipo "has no hobbies" and no curiosity about things outside of her profession of accounting. She was right behind him, and she did not need hearing aids. But in the next breath, he went on to say that she had given so much for this family. I suspect that second part saved his life that day.

So, she remains a returning customer to the same husband-cum-hairdresser each month, and the hearing-impaired hairdresser goes to the table tennis club three times a week like clockwork without impedance. And I get to tell everyone about the tortoise and the hare, if they had gotten married, settled down and built a family, lived and aged together, separately, actively, in their own ways. There was no longer a race, but everyone was a winner.

GRANTS

2025 Dementia Australia Research Foundation Grants



The Dementia Australia Research Foundation is pleased to announce the following grant round supporting talented new, early and mid-career researchers.

KEY DATES

OPENS: Tues 3 June 2025, 9:00am AEST
CLOSES: Tues 29 July 2025, 5:00pm AEST
Outcomes announced: Early 2026

MENTORING OPPORTUNITY FOR VICTORIAN MEMBERS - apply by 5pm, Wed 23 July 2025

The STaRR program is free for all staff members who work for a Western Alliance health service: Barwon Health, Colac Area Health, East Grampians Health Service, Grampians Health, Maryborough District Health Service, Portland District Health, South West Healthcare, Western District Health Service, Western Victorian Primary Health Network. You will attend 3 research skills training workshops, and receive hands-on support for a research idea. This is suited to clinicians who have an interest in research but are not sure how to start. You may also be well placed to *be a mentor* yourself! STaRR is currently seeking mentors with diverse research experiences.



VOICES IN THE CLOUDS: Perspectives on Aged Care

In a single word, what should the future of aged care look like?

Western Sydney University PhD student, Samuel Dakey, is currently seeking responses for his short 5 minute survey on our understanding of current aged care reforms and to form a word cloud on what the future of aged care should look like.

Contribute your thoughts at [this quick survey](#).

For more information, contact Samuel at: samuel.dakey@westernsydney.edu.au

SECG ON SOCIAL MEDIA



f FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/143911358969670/>

in LINKEDIN
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13564197>

X AAG on X
<https://twitter.com/gerontologyau> – use #AAGSECG for SECG news

✍ SECG BLOGS
<https://aag.asn.au/Web/Stay-Informed/SECG-Blogs.aspx>

www SECG on AAG WEBSITE
<https://aag.asn.au/Web/Web/Connect-Now/Network/student-and-early-career-group-secg-2.aspx>

Have something to share?

If you want to contribute to any of the sections or have or have something to share we'd love to hear from you!

The newsletter relies on your content to make it great - so let's make it great!



https://uniofsunshinecoast.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a3Rqs7viisTqoPc
OR tking2@usc.edu.au