

Memorial event - - for the Late Emeritus Professor Hal Kendig - by Professor Keith Hill

Thanks Keryn,

Firstly I would like to give an apology on behalf of Associate Professor Christine Stirling, President of the Australian Association of Gerontology, who was unable to be here today. Chris and I, on behalf of all of AAG, would like to acknowledge our appreciation for the tremendous contributions to gerontology by Hal over many years, and hope that the various presentations today provide Wendy, and the rest of Hal's family here, an understanding of the wide impact Hal has made.

I am going to briefly share with you two aspects of Hal's contributions that I think were extremely substantial and influential in where gerontological and sociological research is placed today, in both Australia and internationally. These relate to his support for early career researchers, which is really the engine room of our future researchers; and the second relates to Hal's international contributions, particularly related to the Asia Oceania Regional Council of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG).

In terms of supporting early career researchers, this would have to be the most challenging part of any researcher's career. This period is during PhD or Masters studies, and the first 3-5 years after this, which are critical for the research trajectory of an early career researcher. My own first interaction with Hal was as an early career researcher, in his time at LaTrobe University – I was undertaking my PhD studies, and was granted permission from Hal to have access and utilise some of the data from what was a pioneering and significant study that Hal led from 1994. This was the Health Status of Older People (HSOP) study, which was a landmark study with many publications, and was utilised by a broad mix of researchers at the time. Hal has also been very generous in his time, mentoring and support of many early career researchers trying to establish themselves over the past 20 or more years, some who are here today.

While many of Hal's contributions to gerontology have been related to the Australian setting, he has also made major contributions internationally. The area I have had most interaction with Hal has been through the Asia / Oceania Regional Council of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Hal has held the position of Scientific Chair for the Regional Conference Planning Committee for the Social Research and Planning sub-committee, in which he had a key role in identifying the key people internationally to invite as keynotes to the regular Regional conferences. Hal's extensive networks internationally meant that the regional conference was always an excellent showcasing of the latest and best research in these areas. Hal's significant contributions in this and other roles for the Asia / Oceania Regional Council of IAGG were recognised with an award of appreciation at the 2015 Regional Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Hal has also had very strong international research collaborations of his own, many in the Asia / Oceania region. On scanning through his CV (not a quick task!) I note publications over the past 3 years that have involved research and research collaborators in China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, as well as work outside of the Asia / Oceania region, for example, in Canada.

As a final comment,

Towards the end of his life, Hal gave some thought as to how a research development program could be set up and supported by him and his family, and how it would operate. Although it is early days yet, the Australian Association of Gerontology Research Trust has agreed to administer donations given in Hal's name in accordance with his wishes.

Thank you.