



UPDATE for ILC Australia: September 2018.

United Nations Open Ended Working Group on Ageing.

July 23-26, New York City, New York, USA

Julie Byles attended the OEWG along with other members of the ILC Global Alliance. Discussion was centred around the need for a Convention on the Rights of the Older Person, with a focus on Long Term Care, Palliative Care, Autonomy and Independence. While input from Australia's UN delegates was limited, many other NGO representatives from Australia were present. These people were predominately from the legal/human rights space. Julie will be working with the representatives that were present in NY to continue the discussion in Australia and will keep ILC-GA updated on the activities that are arising following the OEWGA.

Julie wrote an Article for the Newcastle Herald based on her visit to New York:

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5578249/now-is-the-time-to-care-about-older-people/>

International Federation of Ageing 14th Global Conference, Aug 8-10 Toronto, Canada

Briony Dow from ILC Aus attended the IFA conference, presenting in a symposium on Gender and Health convened by Brian Beach (ILC UK). Briony spoke on older men's mental health.

Memorial for the Late Professor Hal Kendig.

On **Friday 24 August 2018** a memorial service was held to celebrate the life and work of Hal Kendig. The event was coordinated by Keryn Curtis, with representations by Professor Tony Broe, Professor Julie Byles, Professor Keith Hill, Professor Kaarin Anstey, Dr Richard Burns, Jane Halton (former 1st Assistant Secretary to the Department of Health) and The Hon Mark Butler (former Minister for Ageing).

Obituaries to Hal were published in various newspapers around the country:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/hal-kendig-gerontologist-who-helped-shaped-aged-care-20180823-p4zz82.html>

An editorial prepared by Hal, and providing a critical assessment of where Australia is at in relation to ageing policy and research was published in the Australasian Journal of Ageing

Kendig, H. (2018). **Not there yet: A gerontologist's lament.** Australas J Ageing, 37: 165-166.
[doi:10.1111/ajag.12563](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.12563)

Hunter Dementia Alliance - Making the Hunter the Leader in Dementia Care, Thursday 9 August 2018.

This forum focused on advances in prevention and care for people with dementia. Julie Byles presented data on dementia and health care use in late life.

Live well, age well

A number of ILC Australia members are progressing a wellbeing project for older people, based on our experience with The Landings retirement village. We have a small amount of funding from the Cromwell Property Group Foundation to conduct a second pilot in another retirement village, and we are working with various other partners to identify other opportunities around the country. The project takes a community development and co-production approach to developing a wellbeing program for older people. We will be holding a workshop to develop materials to support the program in November.

Toolkit for Veterans

ILC Aus partners Bolton Clarke launched a **Veteran Family Toolkit** to help veterans have timely access to services. <https://www.boltonclarke.com.au/veterans-family-toolkit/>

Living to 100 conference. 7&8th September, Sydney, Australia.

Professor Julie Byles participated in the 2nd International Living to 100 conference hosted by the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA). The conference focused on exceptionally long-lived individuals, and the biological and social factors that may contribute to longevity. Julie discussed the capacity for successful and healthy ageing and longevity, based on data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. The study has involved 12432 women who joined the study in 1996 when they were aged 70-75 years. Over time, the women have provided a wealth of quantitative and qualitative information on their social circumstances, lifestyle, and health. Today, the surviving women are in their late 90's. Few of these women meet the criteria for successful ageing, with most having some chronic disease or disability and many needing assistance with daily tasks. However, this elite group of women, who have lived well beyond the life expectancy of their birth cohort, do show a tremendous ability to live with their conditions and limitations, to adapt to the changes in their intrinsic capacity, and to enjoying wellbeing in their later lives. These women exemplify the World Health Organisation's notion of healthy ageing, whereby people develop and maintain the functional ability that enables well-being in older age, and are supported to do the things they choose to do and have reason to value.

By linking the women's survey data to health service data, we have also been able to examine their health and aged care use in later life, showing a steep increase in service use in the last few months before death.

In an ideal world we would prevent all disease and disability, and all people would live long and age "successfully". However, that world is not our reality, nor is it on any predictable horizon. In responding to ageing we need to not only aim to prevent disease, but also to minimize the effects of disease, maximise functional capacity even in the presence of disease, and to support people with functional limitations so that these have minimal impact on their wellbeing or quality of life.

Development of research proposal on LTC

ILC-GA members are working to develop a research proposal on Long Term Care (LTC). While there may be a general consensus that LTC can address older people's health- and ageing-related needs, the specific elements of care are less clear. The broad nature of LTC creates a challenge for international comparisons, and any comparative policy research must start with consistency in terminology. This proposal will address the clear need for a better framework for understanding and assessing LTC in different settings. Our aim is to develop a way of understanding and describing LTC that would work across the different countries. This "typology" could then be used to help to systematically compare LTC systems across ILC countries, highlighting good practice examples that could be adopted in different settings.

Such work would be considered valuable in helping move forward global discussions on long term care along the lines promoted by WHO and by the United Nations Open Ended Working Group on Ageing.

The overall aims of the research proposal are:

- a. To define and compare Long-Term Care across different country settings
- b. To learn from others to improve LTC delivery and address needs better
- c. To strengthen LTC systems and service delivery by identifying service gaps and learning about good practices internationally

Our working definition of LTC for older people refers to a variety of services and supports that address the needs of older individuals who face a decline in their intrinsic capacity to live independently. LTC is provided in a range of settings by actors from across society, embedded within a system related to government oversight that works alongside informal care provision to promote dignity and wellbeing in later life.

In determining a framework for describing LTC we will be considering:

AVAILABILITY and ACCOMMODATION –supply, the geographical location, workforce, etc.

ACCESSIBILITY (APPROACHABILITY)* –awareness, portals, eligibility, coverage, assessment, wait-times, distance, administrative complexity

APPROPRIATENESS/ADEQUACY - meeting people’s needs, quality, and satisfaction

AFFORDABILITTY – direct costs, indirect costs, opportunity costs, government subsidies, out-of-pocket costs, ability to pay, equity

ACCEPTABILITY – professional values, cultural safety, language, non-judgemental

ACCOUNTABILITY – levels and mechanisms for accreditation, quality assurance, complaints, consumer participation, information and transparency,

Our project will use a standardized approach using vignettes to map and compare LTC systems from different ILC countries to develop a universal typology against these criteria (a classification system), and to identify models of best practice. We are currently completing the background literature review and refining our research methods.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO AGED CARE

The Australian Government have called for a Royal Commission into aged care. The Royal Commission will primarily look at the quality of care provided in residential and home aged care to senior Australians.

Elder Abuse action plan and screening tool

Led by Director Associate Professor Briony Dow, The National Ageing Research Institute has launched Victoria’s first action plan to tackle elder abuse. The plan was developed by NARI with support from Seniors Rights Victoria, the Office of Public Advocate, and community service providers. The Community Action Plan for Victoria was funded by Gandel Philanthropy. The plan highlighted several priorities, including the need to clarify the relationship between family violence and elder abuse; raise community awareness of elder abuse and promote positive images of older people to reduce ageism; increase ways to help older people disclose elder abuse without fear, and provide education and training on elder abuse for all health professionals in health and aged care services.

Older women and risk of homelessness

The Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) released three papers addressing older women who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. These papers were developed in collaboration with a range of experts from the housing, homelessness and aged care sectors and have been endorsed by a wide range of organisations from these sectors. <https://www.aag.asn.au/news/more-can-be-done->

[to-ensure-aged-care-system-meets-is-legislated-responsibility-for-older-women-experiencing-or-at-risk-of-homelessness](#)

The AAG Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group (ATSIAAG) released a report *Assuring equity of access and quality outcomes for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: What needs to be done*. [The report can be found here](#).

PLANNING: ILC Global Alliance meeting Sydney 2019

ILC Australia has been asked to host the ILC Global Alliance meeting in 2019. We have thought to combine this with the AAG national conference which has now been scheduled for 5-8 November 2019 at the National Convention Centre. The theme of the AAG Conference will be “Coming of Age Together: New ways of knowing and acting, now and beyond.

The suggestion is to hold the ILC GA meeting on the 4 November and with a symposium on 5th November (integrated with the AAG workshop day). The suggested schedule is below.

SUNDAY 3rd November: Arrive

MONDAY 4th November:

ILC Board Meeting 10 am -5pm,
Dinner 6-9pm

TUESDAY 5th November:

ILC Projects working groups – Long Term Care; Caregiving.

Robert N Butler Memorial Lecture “Ageing, Culture, and Country”
highlighting issues for first nations peoples.

Cocktail event

WEDNESDAY 6th November: PLENARY SYMPOSIUM WITHIN AAG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Care and Caregiving.

AAG Key Stakeholder dinner

THURSDAY 7th – FRIDAY 8th: optional ongoing participation in AAG National Conference