



AAG's Policy and Practice Update 23rd December 2020 - 27 January 2021

[View this email in your browser](#)

Dear [FirstName],

The AAG Grey Literature Library now includes an updated list of the latest available resources from 23 December 2020 to 27 January 2021 in the 'New Titles' section located on the AAG Grey Literature Library home page ([available by clicking here](#)). The AAG Grey Literature Library allows you to search by topics, including the groups identified in the diversity framework, COVID-19 and more.

See below for an overview of current ways you can get involved in policy development and research to improve the experience of ageing- through both AAG and other organisations' research and consultation processes. A summary of new AAG work and funding opportunities is also provided.

If you would like to have any of your opportunities to get involved in policy-related work and/or publications outside of the usual academic and commercial channels (so called "grey literature") included in the next update, please email me at: cmerrittshadbolt@aag.asn.au

Kind regards,
Chloe Merritt-Shadbolt (Policy Communications Officer)



Acknowledgement of Country

Australian Association of Gerontology acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, to Elders past, present and emerging, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including members of the Stolen Generations. For further information see [AAG's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group \(ATSIAAG\)](#).



Get Involved

Are you ready to get involved?

The 'Policy and Practice Update' includes the following opportunities that enable you to engage in policy and research.

Brain bootcamp: Where better brain health begins

Funded by NSW Government and supported by Macquarie University, **Brain Bootcamp** aims to increase seniors' awareness of dementia risk factors and initiate lifestyle changes to maximise brain health for free.

Led by our very own AAG NSW Division Co-Chair Dr Joyce Siette, adults over 65 are now invited to fill out an online survey at www.brainbootcamp.com.au to create their own personalised brain health profile. This profile will then be included inside a gift box, which will also contain educational resources and easy-to-implement strategies for healthy ageing. Seniors will also receive complementary Brain Bootcamp items that will help kickstart your journey to better brain health.

Registration to participate opened on the 18th January 2021. There are **only 1000 gift boxes available so register soon!**

To find out more information [click to view this video of the project](#).

For more information, please email info@brainbootcamp.com.au or call 9850 2210.

Webinar: Understanding cognitive decline and trauma in aged care

Many people with dementia have been affected by trauma at some stage in their lives, and the symptoms of dementia and trauma can often look the same.

This **free webinar on Tuesday 2 February 4-5pm** will explore how aged care workers can support people affected by dementia and trauma. People working in the aged care sector would benefit from attending.

Presented by Phoenix Australia - Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, as part of the Government's Grief and Trauma Response Package. Speakers include; Arsh Katoch (Service Manager, Dementia Support Australia), Nicole Sadler (Head, Policy and Practice, Phoenix Australia), Jane Nursey (Director, Clinical Services, Phoenix Australia) and Dr Richard Bonwick (Psychiatrist).

[For further information and to register please click here.](#)

Registrations open for the Webinar on the Intergenerational Health & Mental Health Study

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is about to undertake one of the largest health data collection undertakings in Australia's history. Called the '**Intergenerational Health & Mental Health Study**' it will have 6 phases of data collection over 3 years i.e. 2021, 2022, 2023 including sub sampling and bio sampling. There will be a focus on physical and mental health and there will be specific data collections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ABS Director of Health Statistics Juanita Pettit will present an overview of the plans for the Study and answer questions on governance, methodology, timing, data access and much more.

The webinar will take place on **Wednesday 17 February between 12:30pm - 1:30pm AEDT (9:30am - 10:30am AWST)**.

Registration is available to members and non members of the Public Health Association. [To register for the webinar please click here.](#)

Survey open: Co-creation and older adults: Opportunities and challenges

The Federico Santa Maria Technical University, University of Concepcion, University of Valparaiso and the Ohio state university are collecting data to develop a work protocol for the integration of co-creation tools within the idea validation processes of new products for older adults. The survey is seeking worldwide views on design and co-creation of products for older adults.

People working with older adults are encouraged to engage with this survey.

Your participation will consist of answering a series of questions about your attitude towards collaborative design, your perception about how capable you feel about contributing to collaborative design processes and your attitude towards the contribution of other players in the design of products for older adults. All responses are anonymous and information collected will be confidential.

There is no advertised end date for the survey, so we encourage you to participate at your earliest convenience.

For further information email Juan at juancarlos.briede@usm.cl

[To participate in the survey please click here.](#)

Continuing Opportunities

AAG plans for responding to Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety final report in 2021

With the Royal Commission final report due on 26 February 2021, AAG members and staff have begun planning how to get together to discuss the recommendations and how they can inform future AAG work. [You can view all of AAG and the ATSI AAG's previous responses to the Royal Commission here on the AAG website.](#)

[AAG's Special Interest Groups \(SIGs\)](#) have already made tentative plans to meet and discuss the Royal Commission final report in March-April 2021.

AAG will of course also consider and address any relevant Royal Commission findings into ongoing and future AAG policy work.

AAG is also calling out to members to identify if there are any interest amongst members in meeting to discuss issues/topics raised in the final report that are not captured by the AAG SIGs and existing projects. So far the

topics of community care, dementia and diet and nutrition have been flagged.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch and flag a potential issue/topic outside our existing SIGs and projects, please contact AAG's Policy and Research Manager, Sandra South, at ssouth@aag.asn.au.

With the Royal Commission final report due on 26 February 2021, AAG members and staff have begun planning how to get together to discuss the recommendations and how they can inform future AAG work. [You can view all of AAG and the ATSI AAG's previous responses to the Royal Commission here on the AAG website.](#)

Invitation to join expert group for older prison leavers project

The Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) is seeking to form an expert group as part of our collaborative project on older people who are leaving, or who have left, prison.

The group will discuss how AAG and other relevant organisations could assist providers in meeting the needs of older adults who are leaving, or who have left, prison. Further, it is via this project and expert group that AAG aims to assist in supporting older Australians with diverse characteristics and life experiences to contribute to the dialogue surrounding the aged care system and its services. The topic of prison leavers was initially discussed by a previous [AAG webinar 'an introduction to the key issues faced by older people who are leaving or have left prison'](#).

We expect that the expert group will meet via teleconference for an hour approximately 4 times before June 2021. You will also be given the opportunity to provide feedback on any project plans and outputs via email. You do not need to commit to attending all meetings or providing feedback on all documents and we'd appreciate your input at any stage in the project. For those members who are outside Australia, we will try to accommodate time differences in booking meetings. However, we will also always provide detailed minutes and an opportunity to contribute to any discussions/documents outside meetings as well.

We want the project outputs to assist other organisations' future policy and advocacy work to improve the ageing experience for people who are leaving, or who have left, prison. Currently AAG is considering the following as options for the project, but we are interested in hearing more ideas from you:

- Further analysis of the AIHW data into needs of older prisoners with further breakdowns into different age groups.
- Rapid Evidence Assessment of research into supporting people leaving, or who have left, prison to complement [Stevens et al 2018 systematic review of interventions in prisons for older prisoners](#).
- Write a position paper based on what is already out there, expert group opinions and a non-systematic search of the literature.

If you would like to be a part of the expert group, or if you have further questions please don't hesitate to send an email back to AAG's Policy and Research Manager, Sandra South, at ssouth@aag.asn.au or call Sandra on 0427 662 687.

An invitation from QUT to participate in research on co-designing a happy, healthy, flourishing home

Jenna Mikus is a PhD student in QUT's Design Lab, Creative Industries Faculty. Her research focuses on

understanding how a happy, healthy home environment can be designed spatially and with technology to enable people to be their best selves and inform the definition of a new built environment concept, called 'eudaemonic design'. 'Eudaemonic design' is design that supports flourishing health and wellness (also known as Eudaemonic Well-Being—a concept that originated with Aristotle). The researcher has adopted the term from philosophy and psychology and is now adapting it for use in the built environment.

The researcher invites individuals between the ages of 65 and 80 who meet the following characteristics to participate in her research:

- Live alone in Australia and are interested in ageing-in-place;
- Are "tech familiar" (i.e., able to send an email, make a phone call, or conduct a Google internet search from a cell phone); and
- Are willing and able to participate in this research phase over the next 4 months (and potentially follow-on phases for the next year).

The primary objective of this 3-phased research is to design a framework for 'eudaemonic design'. Phase 1 begins by understanding participants' current and desired relationships with their homes and general technology. This phase of the project will include 2 interviews and a set of design activities.

If you are interested in learning more about participating or if you have questions, please contact the researcher via e-mail at j.mikus@qut.edu.au.

Please note that this study has been approved by the QUT Human Research Ethics Committee (approval number 2000000814).

Course on delaying functional decline in people living with dementia available online

Flinders University are excited to announce that a free online learning course 'Agents of Change: translating evidence into practice to delay functional decline in people with dementia' is now open. The Agents of Change course was designed for allied health professionals working with people with dementia in hospital, community, and residential care settings. The course covers the latest evidence about how to delay functional decline and optimise independence in people with dementia. Clinicians who participate in this self-paced course will be guided to apply evidence to practice and be given tools to lead quality improvement projects.

There are specific modules for health professionals interested in:

- Exercise and physical activity for people with dementia.
- Occupational therapy for people with dementia.
- Supporting carers.

Course content was created by researchers and clinicians with expertise in dementia care in collaboration with people with dementia and their family members. The course can be completed over days or weeks and will likely take a total of 8 hours to complete. Participation can be added to professional development records and again there is no cost to access the course.

Their recent evaluation showed that clinicians who completed the course rated it highly and felt it was very

relevant to their clinical practice, [see report here](#).

Interested health professionals [can enrol by clicking here](#). There is no advised end date for the course so we encourage you to engage at your earliest convenience.

Gerontological nursing competencies programme

Over the past five years, University of Wollongong's Aged and Dementia Health Research and Education (ADHERE) group worked with a collaborative of 10 aged care providers and two other universities for the aged care sector to develop the [evidence based Gerontological Nursing Competencies \(GNCs\) Programme](#). The programme includes a work-based interactive online leadership module and offers evidenced based mentorship.

The GNCs Programme was developed in response to a call from aged care providers to provide a framework that describes expectations for a competent aged care nursing workforce and to create a career pathway for this sector. With the outcome of the Royal Commission into Aged Care looming the GNCs Programme provides a solution for aged care providers to meet the new expectations for delivering 'Gold Standard' aged care in Australia. The GNCs was developed from a robust research study, consisting of a literature review, workshop activities and an online e-Delphi consensus survey with 400+ nurses working with older people and their families. The GNCs was also pilot tested by five aged care organisations and is currently being implemented by a further five across NSW.

The GNCs consist of: (1) 11 evidence based core competencies that enables organisations and nurses to demonstrate two levels of specialist gerontological nursing practice; and (2) a guided approach for aged care nurses to work with a mentor to develop a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates their specialist gerontological practice using a combination of (virtual) workshop activities, a self-directed workbook and ongoing online support via a private web-based resource.

For further [information please click here](#). Enquires on how to get involved can be sent here: adhere-enquiries@uow.edu.au

NSW: Upholding the rights of older workers - Employer training

The Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission)'s 2016 [National Inquiry into Employment Discrimination against Older Australians and Australians with Disability](#) found that too many people are shut out of work because of underlying assumptions, stereotypes or myths associated with their age. These beliefs can lead to discriminatory behaviours during recruitment, in the workplace and in decisions about training, promotion and retirement. The cost and impact of this is too high, for both individuals and our economy. With support from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, the Commission has developed an online training package on Upholding the rights of older workers. Access to this online training package is free of charge.

The training package aims to increase an understanding of the benefits of employing older people and a multigenerational workforce and highlights practical ways of working with older employees to foster engagement and retention. Participants gain a deeper awareness of the nature of age discrimination in employment and teaches practical ways of working within a multigenerational team.

The training package is currently available to NSW public service employees, local and federal government employees (located in NSW) as well as those in the private sector in NSW. Please [submit your interest via this link](#) to receive further information on the training.

For further information, please contact the Commission at training@humanrights.gov.au

Aged Care: HealthConsult engaged for study to inform a single unified system for care of older adults in the home

Preparatory work has commenced to establish a single unified system for care of older adults in the home, following the Government's announcement on 25 November 2019. A single unified system will bring together Home Care Packages and the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) to deliver timely and flexible care services that are tailored to consumer's needs. The preparatory work includes activities to understand the underpinning mechanisms required to support the implementation of a unified system.

HealthConsult was engaged in January 2020 to develop options for an Assessment, Funding, and Classification (ACF) model to underpin the single unified system. A preferred option emerged from this work that reflects:

- A proportionate assessment model that tailors the level of assessment to the level of a consumer's need
- A mixed service event and episode level classification system
- A mixed service event and episode level funding model

HealthConsult have now been engaged for the next phase of this project, which will progress the detailed study design required to further develop and test the preferred ACF model. The next phase commenced in September and will conclude in late 2020. HealthConsult would like to approach a number of aged care sector stakeholders to gather advice and input in this next phase of work, and we have suggested they contact your organisation. HealthConsult will also be seeking nominations for aged care in the home providers to be involved in the project, including as provider representatives on technical working groups. HealthConsult encourages you to support this important work.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the project further, please email careathome@health.gov.au.

Seeking input on medicines and people living with dementia

Researchers from the University of South Australia are very pleased to share that they have launched their very first survey 'Consumer and Clinician led Priority Setting for Quality use of Medicines in People Living with Dementia'. Led by Dr Emily Reeve, this project was successful in being funded by the [AAG Research Trust/Dementia Australia Research Foundation - 2019 Strategic Research Grant](#).

This project aims to identify the top 10 unanswered quality use of medicines questions for people living with dementia. These questions will be generated and prioritised by Australians living with dementia, carers, and health care providers (clinicians).

The research team from the University of South Australia would like to hear from:

- People living with dementia
- Carers, family members and friends of people living with dementia
- Healthcare professionals (including students) and/or staff members of healthcare organisations who have any

experience providing or facilitating care for people with dementia.

Participation in this study will involve filling in an anonymous questionnaire. It will take you about 5-10 minutes. To be eligible for this study you need to be at least 18 years old and Australian OR living and/or working in Australia.

For more information and to complete the questionnaire online go to: [“Quality Use of Medicines in People Living with Dementia: Determining research priorities”](#)

OR for a paper copy with reply paid envelope to be sent to you, contact Dr Emily Reeve, Phone: 08 8302 2757 or E-mail: priorities.dementia@unisa.edu.au

The study is being conducted by researchers from the University of South Australia, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Sydney, Monash University and University of New South Wales. And in partnership with the James Lind Alliance. The James Lind Alliance aims to make sure that health research funders are aware of the issues that matter most to the people who need to use the research in their everyday lives. The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the **Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the University of South Australia (HREC #202847)**.

Project survey: COVID-19 Among CALD communities

COVID-19 can place pressure on older adults. It may be experienced differently by people of varying ethnicity, race, place of residence, economic status, and gender. For our research, we wish to understand how Culturally and Linguistically Diverse South Australians are experiencing and coping with the pandemic.

To be a participant you must be over 60 years old. Your involvement will help researchers to understand how older people have coped with the pandemic.

How to participate:

- [Read Participation Information Sheet and complete an online survey – click here](#)
- Complete the Expression of Interest ([attached here](#)) to have a survey posted to you, instead of an online survey or participate in an interview.

Your Participation in the survey and interview is completely voluntary. If you want to ask questions or need further information please contact A/Prof Noore Siddique or Dr Mohammad Hamiduzzaman, Flinders University Rural Health SA, PO BOX: 852, Renmark, SA 5341 or mohammad.hamiduzzaman@flinders.edu.au

This research project has been approved by the **Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number HEL2215-1)**.

There is no advised end date to complete the survey so **we encourage you to complete the survey as soon as possible**.

Survey on COVID-19 social care closures

The following survey seeks to explore the impact of coronavirus related closures of social care services on the lives of older adults, people with dementia and family carers.

Researchers are looking for volunteers who can participate in an [online survey](#) to explore how COVID-19 related social service closures affect the lives of older people, people with dementia and informal carers in Australia.

The study involves you completing an [online survey three times over 12 weeks](#). The first time you complete the survey will take approximately 45 minutes. You will be asked about your use of social support services, self-isolation and your well-being. Alternatively, a telephone conversation can be scheduled, instead of completing the survey on-line, after contacting the research team.

They are also looking for volunteers to be interviewed about their experiences during COVID-19 lockdown. The aim of this interview is to explore the effects of coronavirus related closures of social care services on the lives of people with dementia and family carers.

Contact Dr Katarzyna Lion (Chief Investigator) on k.lion@griffith.edu.au or call **07 373 58440** if you are interested to be interviewed. Detailed information about the research project can be [found on their website](#).

The study obtained a **Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee clearance (GU ref no: 2020/488)**. There is **no advised end date** to complete the survey so we encourage you to complete the survey as soon as possible.

Sexual abuse/ assault of older women - Online survey

Dr Catherine Barrett ([AAG's 2019 Glenda Powell Travelling Fellow](#)) presented an AAG pre-conference workshop in 2018 on the rarely discussed issue of sexual abuse/assault of older women ([report was released on 22 July 2019](#)). You can find further information about the topic on the [OPAL Institute's Power Project website](#).

Dr Barrett has developed a confidential online survey to gain perspectives on sexual abuse/assault from older women, family members and service providers. She will analyse the survey results to produce a community report and to inform a submission to the Royal Commission.

You can [take the survey here](#). There is **no advised end date for the survey**. **We encourage you to engage in the online survey as soon possible** to avoid missing out.

Nominate your service for the new 'quality indicators (QIs) pilot'

A pilot to trial of quality indicators (QI) in residential aged care services starts early next year. 'PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) is assisting the Department of Health to develop the new QI's: medication management, and falls & fractures.

Participation in the pilot is an opportunity for your service to trial and provide feedback on these QI's and help shape the future of the QI Program, ahead of the **implementation of these additional mandatory QI's from 1 July 2021**.

You can nominate multiple services to take part in the pilot, but you will need to complete a separate expression of interest form for each service. [Register your interest here](#).

[Find more information about the QI Program on the Department of Health's website](#).

There is **no advised end date for registration so we encourage you to nominate as soon as possible** to take part in the pilot.

Survey for aged care workers on communication during COVID-19

The Department of Health is seeking your feedback on what stakeholders would find most helpful and informative as we enter the next phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey can be completed by anyone with an interest in the aged care. All participants are welcome to forward the survey link onto others who may also be interested in participating.

All questions are voluntary and the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The survey is anonymous and will not collect personally identifying information.

We would greatly value your feedback. [A link to the survey can be found here](#). There is no advised end date for the survey so we encourage you to engage in the online survey as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Grants, Awards and Funding Opportunities

New grant round open: CHSP growth funding round for 2020-21 and 2021-22

The department is seeking applications from high performing aged care and disability support providers to deliver targeted entry level services in the home to older Australians through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

As part of this grant opportunity, the department is committing up to \$124.4m in additional grant funding across 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years. This will include \$32.2m per year over two years commencing in financial year 2020-21 and a separate allocation of up to \$60m in 2021-22.

This additional growth funding will increase the capacity of the CHSP to provide prioritised entry level aged care services in high demand areas and provide more support and choice of services to older Australians requiring some help to remain living safely at home and in their community.

The grant round is open until 5 February 2021. Late submissions will not be considered.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines, application form, frequently asked questions and priority Aged Care Planning Region details are available on [GrantsConnect](#).

Grant subsidies - Exercise therapy for older Australians

If you employ an Accredited Exercise Physiologist to deliver group activities for community dwelling clients unable to access Commonwealth Home Support Programme allied health or on Home Care wait lists, then you can access Australian Government subsidies for 12 group exercise classes.

Exercise & Sports Australia's grant for its Exercise Right for Better Ageing national exercise program offering has been extended for another year due to COVID-19.

Find out how your organisation can access these subsidies from AAG member and Project Manager, Leanne Evans, eraa@essa.org.au or [view the project website here](#).

Request for tender open: Aged care transition to practice program

The department is seeking organisations and/or established or future consortia to lodge tenders to develop and deliver an evidence-based Aged Care Transition to Practice (ACTTP) Program.

Announced in the 2020-21 Budget, the ACTTP program will:

- assist graduate nurses by providing the support needed to develop their knowledge, skills and competence in the delivery of quality aged care services;
- be designed to attract and retain new nurses to the aged care sector by offering access to important mentoring and training opportunities.

The request for tender is currently open and available on the [AusTender website](#).

Tenders must be **received by 2pm on 17 February 2021**.

South Australia: Office for ageing well community grants are now open

Office for Ageing Well provides a range of Ageing Well Community Grants to fund initiatives that reflect the South Australian Government's commitment to supporting South Australians to age well.

Organisations seeking funding should be working together with older people, including those from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Projects and activities should contribute to building and maintaining inclusive communities focussed on ageing well.

Non-government, non-profit incorporated organisations can apply for [Grants for Seniors](#) and [Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants](#).

Local governments can apply for [Age Friendly SA Grants](#).

All grant applicants must have a registered Australian Business Number (ABN).

[For further information and to apply please click here](#).

Sent by Australian Association of Gerontology, Suite 8, 322 St Kilda Road, St Kilda Victoria 3182 | E cmerrittshadbolt@aag.asn.au | W www.aag.asn.au

[Unsubscribe](#)