

Policy Relevance and Methodology Workshop
Dementia Research Grants Program

27 November 2006

Stamford Plaza Hotel, Adelaide

A collaboration between the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Ageing and Aged Care Division of the Department of Health and Ageing.

Policy Relevance and Methodology Workshop
27 November 2006
Dementia Research Grants Program

Forward:

Welcome to the Policy Relevance and Methodology Workshop hosted in the Stamford Plaza Hotel in Adelaide, 27 November 2006. Today's workshop provides an opportunity for members of the research community from across Australia to meet and discuss issues relating to applied and translational dementia research.

Dementia is an illness that will have an impact on the lives of the majority of Australians. This will happen either directly or through our families, or less directly through friends and acquaintances. The cost of dementia goes beyond the dollars and cents of the lost productivity of sufferers, their families and carers. It also involves loss of quality of life for those affected in addition to those who care for them. It is this cost that the Dementia Research Grants Program is intended to address, and the reason we are here in Adelaide today.

This booklet may provide a useful future reference to the specific topics discussed today and the Dementia Research Grants program as a whole.

We hope you will enjoy the day and leave the workshop with an expanded list of contacts with whom you may collaborate, together with a clear idea of the type of research that this program is seeking to fund. Today's presentations were developed with this purpose in mind, and with the additional aim of assisting you to weave your innovative research ideas into sound and competitive applications for funding.

Table of Contents

Agenda	7
Summary Details of Presenters	9
Presentation slides	
<i>Helping Australians with dementia and their carers</i> <i>- making dementia a National Health Priority:</i>	
What do we Need From Research? By Mr Kevin Vassarotti	11
The National Evaluation Project: How will we know the Dementia Program works? By Dr Colleen Doyle	23
Dementia Research Grants Program: What are we asking of Applicants? By Ms Carey Lonsdale	61
Methodological issues in Dementia Research in Residential Care: Some Methodological Pitfalls to Look Out For By Prof Edmond Chiu AM	73
How Can Quality of Life be Measured? By Prof Robert Cummins	95
Writing a Strong Research Proposal By A/Prof Ngaire Kerse & Dr Phil Wood	133
List of Workshop Participants	171
National Framework for Action on Dementia 2006-2010	Attachment A
Some Quality of Life measures for people with dementia and their carers	Attachment B

Policy Relevance and Methodology Workshop Agenda

- 10.00am **Welcome**
Professor Phillip Boyce
- 10.10am ***Helping Australians with dementia and their carers – making dementia a National Health Priority: What do we Need From Research?***
Mr Kevin Vassarotti
- 10.20am **The National Evaluation Project: How will we know the Dementia Program works?**
Dr Colleen Doyle
- 10.35am **Dementia Research Grants Program: What are we asking of Applicants?**
- Clarifying the Round 2 process, the workshop and Strategic Awards.
Ms Carey Lonsdale
- 10.50am **Methodological issues in Dementia Research in Residential Care: Some Methodological Pitfalls to Look Out For**
Professor Edmond Chiu AM
- 11.20am **How Can Quality of Life be Measured?**
Professor Robert Cummins
- 11.50am **Writing a Strong Research Proposal**
A/Professor Ngaire Kerse and Dr Phil Wood
- Lunch ---
- 2.00pm **Facilitated Discussion Groups**
Participants to break into facilitated groups and discuss potential proposals with peers.
- 4.00pm **Workshop Closes**

Summary Details of Presenters

Professor Philip Boyce

Head of Discipline of Psychological Medicine at the University of Sydney. Prior to his appointment at Westmead Hospital, he held the Foundation Chair in Psychiatry at Nepean Hospital. Professor Boyce served a full triennium as a member of the Strategic Research Development Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council and was responsible for the mental health program of the SRDC.

Professor Boyce was President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists from 2003 to 2005. He has published over 100 papers, predominantly in the area of mood disorders, perinatal psychiatry, the functional bowel disorders (IBS) and on evidence based psychiatry.

Dr Colleen Doyle

Senior Research Fellow, La Trobe University. Colleen Doyle is the project leader for the national evaluation of the Dementia Health Priority Initiative. Her doctorate was in psychology, and she has worked in health program evaluation for 15 years. Prior to joining La Trobe University she was an evaluation officer in the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer and also worked in private practice as an evaluation consultant. Her main interests in gerontology are in dementia care, quality assurance and residential care. Her recent teaching experience includes writing distance education courses in dementia care, evaluation and quantitative research methods. She has published over 50 reports, peer reviewed articles and book chapters. This year she was awarded an Alzheimer's Australia travelling fellowship to investigate consumer involvement in evaluation of dementia care programs.

Professor Edmund Chiu AM

Recently "retired" from full time Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, University of Melbourne. Professor Chiu holds an Honorary Professorial Follow position in Old Age Psychiatry in the University. Professor Chiu was the Professor/Director of the Academic Unit in Old Age Psychiatry at St.George's Hospital Melbourne. He has published over 100 papers in refereed Journals, is a member of two Editorial Boards, and has co-edited 8 books:- in Old Age Psychiatry, Dementia ,Depression, and an Asian Textbook in Psychiatry for Asia. Professor Chiu is a member of the Medical and Scientific Panel of ADI, a Past President of International Psychogeriatric Association, and the current Chair of the World Psychiatric Association Section in Old Age Psychiatry.

Professor Chiu was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 1988, and the Year 2000 Medal of Honour of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

Professor Robert Cummins

Professor Robert A. Cummins holds post-graduate degrees in physiology and psychology from the University of Queensland and the University of Western Australia. He was appointed to a Personal Chair in Psychology at Deakin University in 1997.

Professor Cummins has published widely on the topic of Quality of Life and is regarded as an international authority in this area. He is a Fellow of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies and the Australian Psychological Society. He is on the editorial board of eight Journals and is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Happiness Studies.

His current research program is directed towards theory development concerning the quality of life construct, and how such understanding can be used to improve the life experience of people who are medically or socially disadvantaged. His major current project involves a quarterly index of subjective wellbeing for the Australian population.

Associate Professor Ngaire Kerse

Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Auckland.

Associate Professor Kerse has research interests in the primary health care of older people, interventions to impact outcomes in primary care and the doctor-patient relationship.

Current research interests include falls and injury prevention in residential care. She uses collaborations between General Practice, Injury Prevention and Geriatric Medicine in her research. The idea of raising awareness of falls for older people by systematic risk assessment has led to the refinement of a multidisciplinary risk management program and testing of this using RCT design in residential care homes around Auckland.

Dr Phil Wood

Geriatrician working in the North Shore of Auckland, NZ. After completing training in Dunedin, NZ he spent 5 yrs in the UK where his interest in dementia developed. He published the original UK trials of tacrine, in the 1990's and the effect of Aluminium in intracellular mechanisms. He set up and developed a Memory Clinic in North Shore Hospital and has been involved in a number of drug treatment trial of Alzheimer's and related dementias from this base.

He has a part time role as senior lecturer in General Practice / Geriatrics, and is a director of the Masters Papers in Geriatrics/gerontology at the University of Auckland. He continues to be involved in programme grants work in the degenerative neurological diseases and studies into fMRI/EEG and computerised neuropsychometric testing. He maintains a strong interest in research in matters relating to the elderly.