

Australasian Centre on Ageing
UQ Boilerhouse *Community Engagement Centre*

Project Announcement

**A Collaborative Approach to Ageing well in the community Model
(CAAM Project)**

Project Background:

Action to facilitate optimal well-being in later life at the local level is often fragmented and uncoordinated. The challenge of creating age-friendly communities involves a range of intertwined issues including transport, housing, environment, leisure, health care and social interactions for older people. The potential for adopting collaborative models and linkages between a wide range of activities, organisations and interests to promote and achieve ageing well at the community level has been little explored.

Aims of the Study:

This project will develop and implement a model of local collaboration responding to national policy goals concerned with the community's capacity to age well. The model will bring together key stakeholders in ageing, including older people themselves. It will be implemented in two contrasting local communities at Ipswich and the Gold Coast. Stakeholders will work together on a strategy to make a difference for older people and to make the Gold Coast and Ipswich age-friendly communities where people can age well. The intention is to develop a sustainable model capable of being applied for a range of issues and in a range of contexts. By doing so, the project addresses two key policy issues – first, the critical challenge presented by population ageing in local communities; and second, the role of collaboration and partnerships in formulation and implementation of human services policy.

Guiding Research Question:

The guiding research questions for the project are:

- What opportunities and constraints are associated with developing and implementing a collaborative, community-based strategy for ageing well ?
- What are the key components of a sustainable model for such collaboration?

Research Partners:

This research is an Australian Research Council Linkage Project conducted by The University of Queensland through the Australasian Centre on Ageing and UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre.

The project partners are Gold Coast City Council; Ipswich City Council; and the Queensland Government's Department of Communities.

The project is guided by a team of people including:

Dr Jeni Warburton	The Australasian Centre on Ageing The University of Queensland
Dr Michael Cuthill	UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre
Prof Helen Bartlett	The Australasian Centre on Ageing The University of Queensland
Jo-Anne Everingham	The Australasian Centre on Ageing The University of Queensland
Andrea Petriwskyj	The Australasian Centre on Ageing The University of Queensland

Research Design:

This study will be conducted in four phases.

Phase One – October 2006- March 2007

Scoping the issues

Phase Two – March 2007- September 2007

Establishing the collaboration and preparing the strategy

Phase Three – October 2007 – December 2008

Implementing and monitoring the strategy

Phase Four – Jan 2009-June 2009

Analysis and reporting of what we learn

The initial phase of the project is currently under way. It involves collecting information about all the organisations, activities and services for older people in the two communities as a basis for assessing priorities for the collaborative strategy. It also involves liaison with all relevant stakeholders in local and state governments, community organisations and the private sector. This will provide the foundation for the collaborative partnership to be established to prepare and implement the strategy from March 2007. By drawing together contributions to the community data and needs analysis from many individuals and organisations it is anticipated that the community profiles will themselves be a valuable resource for all stakeholders.

For more information or to register as interested parties or stakeholders

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