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MEDIA RELEASE

NARI RECEIVES OVER \$2M IN INNOVATION GRANTS

The National Ageing Research Institute has been awarded over \$2million for three research projects that will support service innovation in aged and dementia care.

The projects are diverse, and include the development of technology to enable people with dementia from CALD backgrounds to communicate easily, exploring how art centres in remote communities can link older Aboriginal people to services under consumer directed care, and trialling videoconferencing technology with interpreters for aged care assessments.

NARI also has a significant role in two further grants, one of which will respond to needs in residential aged care and one will develop resources to raise awareness of dementia and dementia care for CALD groups.

The Dementia and Aged Care Services Research and Innovation grants focus on six priority areas, and will help the aged care system meet the challenges ahead.

“The projects are at the cutting edge, and build on NARI’s strengths in supporting older people and services through research,” Acting Director Debra O’Connor said.

The projects include:

Exploring the ways art centres in remote communities can link older Aboriginal people to services under consumer directed care.

The results will provide the government with a model which can be readily translated to approximately 90 art centres in remote community settings where Aboriginal people aged over 55 years comprise around 30% of the artist population. Anecdotally art centres help Aboriginal people living with dementia and other conditions associated with ageing, but integration into the service system has not been explored to date. The prevalence of dementia in remote communities is up to five times higher than the general population and there is limited choice in health and support services. The project will be the first of its kind.

This project is a partnership between NARI, Flinders University, University of Western Australia, the NPY Womens Council, Mangaka Arts, Ikuntji Artists and Kimberley Aged and Community Services.

Talk2Me Technology- Enabling older people with dementia from CALD backgrounds to communicate their everyday needs

Talk2Me will explore how people with dementia from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) can easily communicate everyday needs with carers who do not speak the same language. Existing technology supporting voice to voice translation (e.g. Google Translate), has not been designed with the needs of older people, including those with dementia, in mind. Talk2Me will address this issue, using a co-design approach. NARI's partners are Curve Tomorrow Pty Ltd and Mercy Health.

Improving service knowledge and access among older people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds with dementia

NARI will trial videoconferencing technology with interpreters for aged care assessments (with the interpreter in a different location to the assessment worker, older person and family). The aim is to improve service access among people from CALD backgrounds and address the issue of delayed diagnosis of dementia, the shortage of interpreters, especially in new and emerging languages and rural/remote areas. It is anticipated the use of e- interpreting will be more cost-effective than face-to-face. It will also enable older people from CALD backgrounds and their families to learn about the current aged care service system in their own language.

Mapping the Journey in Residential Aged Care for Residents with Dementia

Royal Freemasons has partnered with NARI to investigate new approaches to deliver consumer directed residential aged care. Residents and families are ill-prepared when a resident with dementia declines in health and 'transitions' to a substantially different level of care. NARI will evaluate the enhanced care program for residential services which includes Transition Maps, an information-rich yet simple tool to map, track and coordinate a resident's journey in care.

Moving Pictures: Using film and digital media to raise dementia awareness in CALD communities

Early diagnosis of dementia is crucial to develop treatment plans, including palliative care, for families to organise their finances, and to ensure that with medication and therapies, a certain quality of life can be preserved. For CALD people with dementia diagnosis is often delayed, occurs at crisis point, thus worsening health and care outcomes. NARI has been sub-contracted by Curtin University to develop nine short films in conjunction with three CALD communities. The films will be hosted on a website and free mobile app.

**For interviews and more information about each project, please contact:
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