

Capability Statement

National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) has been leading Australia in ageing research for over 40 years. Its aims are to improve health outcomes and aged care practice, as well as guide policy to improve the quality of life and ageing experience for Australia's older people.

NARI has produced work of international significance that applies to real life. Within Australia, it has a strong record of being selected through competitive tendering to work on projects of national importance. NARI also works with Australian businesses to solve issues relating to ageing that are important to their customers. It is seeking projects with a national scope and those that tackle complex, translational issues.

Competencies:

NARI undertakes multi and interdisciplinary research that considers the whole person and encompasses all aspects of ageing, including cultural, relationships, and gender diversity. Research is focussed on older adults, family, and professional carers and providers. NARI works in three areas:

Clinical:

- Dementia: screening, early intervention, identification of early risk factors and interventions for people living with dementia and their carers
- Pain management
- Falls prevention
- Physical activity
- Healthy ageing

Psychosocial:

- Elder abuse
- Social isolation and loneliness
- Family and intimate relationships
- Carers
- Depression and mental health

Technology:

- Co-designs technology with consumers, carers and providers
- Evaluates technology to ensure it is a good fit for consumer and carer
- Brings together a variety of stakeholders (older adults, engineers, hospital managers and IT developers)

Approaches:

NARI uses multiple techniques to ensure research is relevant, accessible, and solution driven. These include:

- Using a variety of methodological approaches
- Bringing diverse populations into the project, using a co-design (knowledge exchange) approach
- Extensive collaborations with consumers, service providers, industry, academics and advocates
- Delivering translational research

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Differentiators:

NARI is known for its established partnerships with some of Australia's leading corporates in ageing, and is well networked in the sector and academia. In addition, NARI:

- Has a long track record of working with international and local collaborators in research and research translation
- Has access to a network of "older" research volunteers and a CALD stakeholder register to co-design research and/or product development
- Has initiated the Melbourne Ageing Research Collaboration (MARC) model (11+ partners) for translational research bringing industry, health services, aged care providers, and academic research together to deliver "real world" outcomes
- Has established a professional development program for the health and aged care sector
- Has ongoing engagement with vulnerable populations that are underrepresented in research such as CALD, LGBTI and indigenous communities

Examples of Performance:

- Developed a world first real time virtual exercise program for older people using a body tracking camera and off-the-shelf software
- Developed the "Best care for older people in hospital resource" with the Department of Health & Human Service, Victoria which is informing best practice through evidence to reduce functional decline in hospitals
- Developed the Improving the environment for older people in health services: An audit tool (2006) which is now being used to inform best practice in design and reduce risks, such as falls in hospitals
- Improved mental health screening and literacy through cultural adaptation of depression and anxiety screening tools for older Chinese immigrants
- Developed the Healthy Ageing Quiz to guide older people in how to age well
- Improved dementia and depression literacy in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities (Indian / Chinese/ Sri-Lankan communities) through co-design of films and digital media
- Developed the Elder Abuse Community Action Plan for Victoria post the Family Violence Royal Commission including the development of the Australian Elder Abuse Screening Instrument (AUSI)
- Conducted a state-wide survey for Resident Retirement Villages Victoria (RRVV): to understand residents' satisfaction with retirement village living which has informed current legislative changes

Company Data:

- Independent, Not for Profit, with full Charitable Tax Status.
- Registered service provider under the R&D Tax Incentive Scheme
- Retains over 40 multidisciplinary researchers (geriatricians, physiotherapists, social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists)
- ABN: 71 154 866 047