



IAGG Global Research Network on Health & Ageing Questionnaire for selection process

Name of the Centre: **Ageing Research Unit**
Key Investigator / Head of Department: **Prof. Kaarin Anstey**
Phone: **02 6125 8410**
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Description of the Centre:

a) Type of investigations:

- Basic Science / Fundamental
- Clinical Research
- Health Services Research
- Epidemiologic/Public Health Research
- Other

b) Themes investigated (please specify):

- Dementia
- Frailty
- Sarcopenia
- Other Neurodegenerative Disorders
- Geriatric Disorders
- Cardiovascular Risk Factors
- Metabolism
- Ageing research
- Genetics
- Gerontechnology
- Other

c) Number of investigators in ongoing positions:

- Less than 5
- to 10
- More than 10

d) Number of investigators funded by specific projects:

- 1 to 3
- 4 to 5
- More than 5

e) Does your Centre have a:

- Clinical affiliation
- Academic affiliation

f) Does your Centre have a basic sciences program? (Please specify topic)

- Yes
- No

If your Centre is affiliated to a Geriatric Department, please provide the following information:

a) Types of units:

- Acute Ward - **Number of beds: 0**
- Outpatient Ward - **Number of patients/year: 0**
- Community Care Unit - **Number of visits/year: 0**

- Day Hospital - **Number of places/day: 0**
- Geriatric Rehabilitation Unit - **Number of beds: 0**
- Long-Term Care - **Number of beds: 0**
- Special Units (stroke, memory, ortho-geriatric, psycho-geriatric) - **Number of beds: 0**

b) Number of staff in the Department:

Geriatric: **0**
 Gerontology: **0**
 Other: **0**

c) Does the Day Hospital have specialist services?

- Dementia / Memory
- Cardiovascular clinic
- Rehabilitation
- Falls assessment clinic
- Parkinson's disease clinic
- Other

d) Does your Geriatric Department already cooperate with supervising clinical trials?

- Yes
- No

Management of the Centre:

a) Is your Centre an existing national or government recognized medical research Centre?

- Yes
- No

b) Does the Centre receive funded grants? (Please specify source)

- Yes **The Unit receives approximately \$1million per annum ? the fund large-scale epidemiological projects and smaller psychosocial projects. Our main source of funding is the National Health and Medical Research Council. We also receive funding from the Aus**
- No

c) Does the Centre collaborate with trials funded by pharmaceutical companies?

- Yes
- No

d) Will the Centre shortly begin investigation projects?

- Yes
- No

Indicate the three main publications over the last 2 years:

1/ Name of Journal: International Journal of Epidemiology

Title of article: **Cohort Profile: The Dynamic Analyses to Optimise Ageing (DYNOPTA) Project**

2/ Name of Journal: Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders

Title of article: **Risk factors of transition from normal cognition to mild cognitive disorder**

3/ Name of Journal: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society

Title of article: **Older drivers in Australia: Trends on driving status and cognitive and visual impairment**

Please add short biographies (maximum 1 page) of the Key Investigators and Head of Department

Professor Kaarin Anstey is Director of the Ageing Research Unit at the Centre for Mental Health Research, at the Australian National University. She is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) of the PATH Through Life Project, an epidemiological study focussing on identifying risk and protective factors that influence mental health and cognitive decline from mid-life into late adulthood. Anstey is also the PI on the multidisciplinary DYNOPTA project that has pooled 9 Australian Longitudinal Studies of Ageing. She is a

member of the editorial boards of Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences, Gerontology, Ageing Neuropsychology and Cognition, and Ageing International. In 2001 she was awarded the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia Early Career medal, in 2005 she won the Margret Baltes Award for Research Excellence in the Social and Behavioural Sciences from the Gerontological Society of America, and in 2009 was awarded the E.W. Busse Award at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Anstey has been a member of the Medical and Scientific Panel of Alzheimer's Australia since 2005 and has been appointed Chair from 2011. Dr Tim Windsor completed his PhD research at the University of New England in 2002, and since that time has been a member of the Centre for Mental Health Research's Ageing Research Unit. Dr Windsor's research interests are focused on social gerontology, with specific projects concerned with changes in social relations over the lifespan, and self-regulation in the context of adult development and ageing. Dr Windsor works on several longitudinal projects concerned with following developmental changes among older adults over time, and is lead investigator on the Transitions in Later Life project which focuses on older adults' psychosocial adjustment to retirement from work and residential relocation. Dr Richard Burns is a postdoctoral fellow within the Ageing Research Unit (ARU) at the Australian National University (ANU). Dr Burns completed his MSc in Applied Psychology at the University of Manchester where he also worked as an academic tutor, research assistant and as course co-ordinator. Since 2007, Dr Burns has worked for Prof. Kaarin Anstey, first as a research assistant and, upon completion of his PhD in 2009, as a postdoctoral fellow. Dr Burns' current research programme focuses on aspects of mental health and well-being, the role of personality and self-referent attitudes in healthy ageing, and the application of longitudinal research methods to analyse adult development. Dr Nicolas Cherbuin is an NHMRC research fellow and a member of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres initiative. His main research interests are the investigation of risk factors for dementia and cognitive ageing, the development of instruments for the early identification of individuals at risk of developing dementia, and the investigation of neuroanatomical changes associated with cognitive decline and dementia using brain imaging techniques. Dr Allison Bielak is a postdoctoral research fellow with the Ageing Research Unit, Centre for Mental Health Research at the Australian National University. She completed her PhD in Psychology at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, specializing in Lifespan Development, and has received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Allison's research focus is both healthy and pathological age-related changes in cognition. She is interested in researching the factors that contribute to the differences in how individuals age cognitively, especially the influence of factors that can be changed, such as lifestyle. Allison also studies intraindividual variability, or rapid fluctuations in cognitive performance in older adulthood, and how this relates to cognitive ability, health, and potential disease prediction.