

Residential Aged Care Research Network (RACReN): Research Priorities for Residential Aged Care

Survey 1 Results Summary

The Australian residential aged care sector is experiencing immense change driven by the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. *The aim of this research is to gain consensus on what areas researchers should prioritise to support this change.*

Methods: We combined research priorities from 15 reports, creating a list of 93 research topics grouped into 8 themes. We then asked different groups of people involved in residential aged care to rate how important it is to research each topic.

Results: 81 people completed the survey from July to November 2022. 1 in 7 respondents had multiple roles in aged care.

1. Building an
interprofessional
aged care
team/system

2. Service
provider
responsibility

3. Consumer
expectations for
the aged care
system

4. Informal carer
(care partners)

5. Quality care

6. Accessible,
respectful and
inclusive
services

7. Innovations in
care provision

8. Crisis
management
and preparing
for future
disasters

Of the 93 research topics, 32 were rated as *very* or *extremely* important by >90% of people from at least 3 stakeholder groups (what we defined as consensus).



Workers and clinicians identified the largest number of topics as important (67 topics) while Managers, policy and funding staff identified the lowest number of topics as important (14 topics).

Theme 5: Quality care, and Theme 1: Building an interprofessional aged care team/system, had the highest number of research topics scored as important, while Theme 8: Crisis management and preparing for future disasters, had the lowest.

What's next: A [second survey](#) from September – December 2023 will narrow down the top research topics, identifying the 10 most important topics for the sector. These outcomes will shape the research priorities of the National Centre for Healthy Ageing.

Learn More: Email the team at ncha.racren@monash.edu or visit the [RACReN website](#).

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