



Research Priorities for Residential Aged Care

What are the most important areas researchers should prioritise to support the transformation driven by the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety?

What we did



Delphi survey 1

- 15 reports synthesised into 93 research topics
- **Survey 1 results** – 32 topics rated as very/extremely important

Delphi survey 2



199 People surveyed



5 Stakeholder groups

- 34 Residents
- 77 Carers
- 64 Health & care workers
- 32 Managers, policymakers, and regulators
- 32 Researchers in residential aged care



Consensus on

19 topics



Narrowing to
Top 3 priority areas



What we learnt



All 5 stakeholder groups agreed we need to develop new knowledge and workable solutions across **three main topics**

#1 The best ways to retain residential aged care workers

#2 How to ensure the best care during end of life

#3 How to provide high quality behaviour support for residents living with dementia

Read about the top 3 priorities for each stakeholder group overleaf

Each group had different key areas they cared most about

RESIDENTS' top three priorities were worker retention, ongoing staff professional development and medication management.

CARERS' top three priorities were about supporting residents' engagement and connection, their transition into residential care, and residents without informal carers.

HEALTH AND CARE WORKERS' top three priorities were all about providing high quality of care, specifically mental health and wellbeing, integrated care access, and palliative care.

The top two research priorities from people working in **RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE MANAGEMENT, POLICY, REGULATION AND FUNDING** were improving resident mental health and wellbeing and behaviour support for residents with dementia, with 5 topics primarily related to quality care tied for third.

RESEARCHERS felt nearly everything was very or extremely important, with 7 topics ranked as very or extremely important by 100% of researchers.

“It is important to feel valued. Good workers need to be able to be identified and given incentives/rewards for staying.”

Resident

“Engagement and connection are required for our mental health. If we are in a home we need it more than ever.”

Daughter of a resident

“Residents deserve to access appropriate health care support when needed with a focus on quality of life.”

Nurse

These findings provide researchers, government and the aged care sector with clear directions on where research effort should be focussed to meet the needs of residential aged care stakeholders.

By aligning research funding with sector need, the Australian Government can increase the speed and effectiveness of change efforts to continue to improve the safety and quality of residential aged care for everyone.

Investigators: Dr Katrina Long, Prof Terry Haines, Prof Keith Hill, Prof Grant Russell, A/Prof Helen Rawson, Dr Raphaele-Ashley Guerbaai, Prof Nadine Andrew, Dr Chris Moran.

NACReN Stakeholder Steering Committee: Sue Albert (Baptcare), Margaret Boulos (Carers Victoria), Marguerite Bramble (AAG), Rachel Halse (ANMF), Vanessa Lane (Arcare), Damien Malone (Village Glen), Fergus McGee (Peninsula Health), Kirsten Moore (MARC, NARI), Gregg Nicholls (COTA Vic), Meg Polacsek (AAG, formerly Benetas), Sandra South (AAG), Velandai Srikanth (NCHA), Lisa Tribuzio (Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing).

Funding acknowledgement: Funding from the Commonwealth Government of Australia through the Community Health and Hospitals Program Grant Scheme.