



How RACReN is working with aged care

Connecting — Innovating — Collaborating

Our Residential Aged Care Research Network (RACReN) connects those who live, work and care about residential aged care with researchers to innovate and deliver real-world solutions. A snapshot of some projects we are supporting to help solve complex issues facing the sector:

Optimising health information exchange during aged care transfers

Problem — Barriers to sharing critical health information during the transfer of an aged care resident to and from hospital can lead to critical information either being missed or inaccurate, often impacting on best possible care outcomes.

Approach — We are working collaboratively with 17 aged care, healthcare, and consumer peak bodies and providers, to develop and test a digital health summary. This will enable the efficient and accurate sharing of critical health information that all users can easily access and understand.

Planned Outcomes — Increased access to critical health information for residents, their families, paramedics, aged care staff, hospital staff and general practitioners.
— A prototype digital health summary designed and tested by end users ready for national investment and scale up.

A-PRECISE - Australia PReventing infECtions In reSidential agEd care

Problem — People living in residential aged care homes are at high risk of contracting healthcare-associated infections; the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in this setting.

Approach — In collaboration with consumers, staff, and residential aged care providers, we are co-designing, testing and evaluating a surveillance tool and educational resource to optimise infection and control practices.

Planned Outcomes — An electronic tool for point-prevalence surveillance of healthcare-associated infections in residential aged care.
— An infection prevention and control education resource to support the aged care workforce.



Supporting culturally and linguistically diverse aged care residents

Problem — Australia has an increasingly multicultural ageing population, with 5% of older adults struggling to communicate in English. Finding strategies for effective communication with these residents is necessary for equitable, safe, and high-quality care.

Approach — Using interviews and surveys we are capturing the daily communication experiences of residents with limited English proficiency and the strategies used by aged care staff and their families to support them. The strategies identified will be complemented by a search for known communication aids suitable for residential aged care.

Planned Outcomes — An easy-to-use toolkit to support aged care workers in communicating with aged care residents with limited proficiency in English.



Co-designing aged care student placement programs to address the diverse needs of older Australians

Problem — As demand for an aged care workforce increases there is a need to attract more students to be trained in aged care settings.

Approach — We are working with four aged care homes across metropolitan and regional Victoria to co-design student-led placement models that align with the needs of people living within aged care facilities.

Planned Outcomes — A package of health professional student programs that enhance the health and wellbeing of older people living in residential aged care.
— A future workforce with greater capability in providing effective care to older people.

If you're looking to be involved in research projects, access student placements or have an idea that researchers can help you with, we are here to help. Become a RACReN member:



For more information

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