



Dear Friends of Lifespan Labs (Age Lab and BabyLab)

2024 has been a fulfilling year, filled with wonderful connections and meaningful engagement. It's always a pleasure to meet with our local community, exchange stories, and simply catch up on life.

Our teams have also been working closely with many of you on studies, making valuable progress in our research. Thank you for your ongoing support and shared passion for aged care and early childhood development. Your contributions, in all forms, help drive our research forward, and we are truly grateful.

Looking forward to another year of exciting opportunities and continued collaboration.

Research Highlights



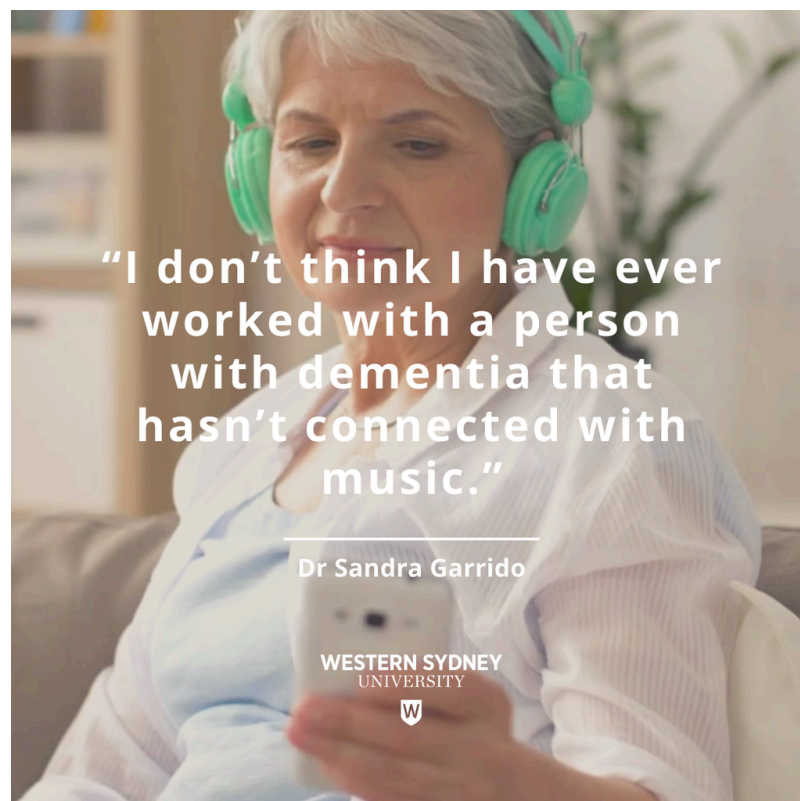
The [MemoryAid](#) project, led by A/Prof [Celia Harris](#), has been selected as one of the Top 5 finalists in the UK's prestigious Longitude Prize on Dementia – the only Australian finalist!

The retro telephone set is an innovative device designed to **empower people**

living with dementia to maintain their independence while staying connected with loved ones.

A/Prof Celia Harris also spoke at the NSW Smart Sensing Network Ageing Forum at NSW Parliament House on the **importance of supporting our ageing population** and demonstrated the prototype of the MemoryAid Device with Prof [Paul Breen](#).

Watch the video to learn more about the MemoryAid device.



Personalised playlists can be used to help treat patients with dementia. Dr [Sandra Garrido](#) has developed guidelines for aged care providers to **incorporate music as a targeted intervention for individuals living with dementia**.

[Find out more](#)

Interested in learning more about using music in dementia care? We're offering FREE online training for caregivers.

[Find out more](#)



The White Paper, *Ageing Well in Western Sydney and Beyond*, authored by A/Prof [Joyce Siette](#) and researchers from across Western Sydney University, provides valuable perspectives and solutions for addressing the evolving needs of our ageing population.

[Find out more](#)



A/Prof Joyce Siette and Samuel Dakey, PhD Candidate, curated an innovative art exhibition at the 57th Australian Association of Gerontology ([AAG](#)) Conference. The exhibition, *Voices in the Clouds*, invited policy makers, students, researchers, practitioners, and industry partners to reflect on the future of aged care. Participants were asked to share a single word that represents their hopes for the aged care sector. Stay tuned for this interactive exhibition as we plan to bring this to you at our upcoming events!



Prof [Susan Hespos](#) shared her insights on *'What Do Babies Know?'* with early childhood educators and sector professionals at The Power of Play Seminar organised by [PlaygroupNSW](#). The talk highlighted evidence of early abstract learning in infants as young as three months and explored the key factors that support children's relational learning.



BabyLab team celebrated the success and completion of our Honours students' **research internship** program. Some of you may have worked with the interns on our recent studies – thank you for giving them the opportunity to learn and gain hands-on experience in research. A new batch of interns will be starting their program from Dec 2024 to Feb 2025!

2025 ARC Discovery Projects



We are thrilled to share that our work has been recognised by the Australian Research Council (ARC), with **two of our ARC Discovery Projects receiving funding for 2025**. These projects focus on:

- 'The origins and development of human analogical reasoning'
(Lead: Prof [Susan Hespos](#))
- 'Understanding the mastery of multiple languages and dialects'
(Lead: Prof [Paola Escudero](#))

We are excited to launch these new studies and look forward to transforming education in Australia, one discovery at a time.



The **Sydney Science Festival Family Day** held on 17 Aug 2024 by the [Powerhouse Museum](#) and the [City of Parramatta](#), was a truly exciting experience. The festival did a wonderful job of blending education with entertainment, making science both accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

[Find out more](#)

NSW Carers Day Out 2024

Age Lab researchers spent a day with carers at the Redfern Community Centre to celebrate and appreciate the significant role they play in caring for people with disabilities, health conditions, or age-related challenges.



BabyLab Library Talk

Dr [Eylem Altuntas](#) spoke on the science and benefits of infant-directed speech at the [Parramatta Library](#), answering questions from parents about communicating with young children and the impact of bi/multilingualism.



Healthy Ageing Symposium

Age Lab team participated in the Healthy Ageing Symposium at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre to promote brain health and discuss healthy ageing.



Pop-Up BabyLab Playgroups

BabyLab team enjoyed participating in a series of play sessions by PlaygroupNSW, learning new tricks from children and connecting with parents.



Upcoming Activities

Mini Expo: Celebrating International Day of People with Disability | 3 Dec 2024 (Tues), 10am, Parramatta Library NSW 2150

Experience the MemoryAid device and Virtual Reality (VR) sessions, challenge yourself with brain games, and take home exclusive Age Lab merchandise.



[Register now](#)



Public Lecture by Prof Kathy Hirsh-Pasek | Feb/Mar 2025

[Kathy Hirsh-Pasek](#), a leading expert in child development and education, and author of bestselling books like *Becoming Brilliant*, will be visiting MARCS Institute and BabyLab in early 2025. Join her lecture to discover how we can create

joyful, effective learning environments for children. Stay tuned for more details.



Coming soon: Age Lab Photobooth and more!

2025 is shaping up to be a year of new experiences! After your Age Lab study, you may choose to head over to our brand new photobooth to capture a memento of your Age Lab experience and share it with friends and family.

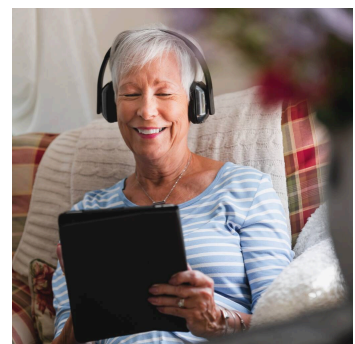
Participate in Studies

Help optimise wellbeing of older Australians

The Age Lab aims to understand social, emotional, and cognitive changes across the lifespan, and to develop programs to support healthy ageing.

For participants aged 55 and above.

[Register with Age Lab](#)



Where little humans answer big questions

BabyLab studies offer a window into the minds of infants and young children,

helping us understand how humans first acquire language and learn about the world.

For participants aged 3 months to 5 years old.



[Register with BabyLab](#)

Contact Us

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