

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Who uses HACC?

Professor Louisa Jorm and Dr Hilary Bambrick from the School of Medicine are collaborating with Professor Hal Kendig and Dr Robert Pedlow from University of Sydney, and Associate Professor Julie Byles and Dr Lynne Parkinson from University of Newcastle to explore the link between accessing Home and Community Care Services and use of hospital inpatient services through a Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW HACC Research Grant.

'Home-based care and support services are central to the efficient functioning of the overall health and aged care systems,' says Professor Jorm. 'Home care can often prevent or delay and, in some cases, substitute for admission to acute care hospitals and long-term care facilities at a lower cost of care. The Home and Community Care (HACC) program aims to promote and enhance the independence of its clients, to enhance their quality of life and/or prevent their inappropriate admission to long-term residential care. This project will look at who is accessing HACC services, how these services are used, and what other support is being used by the client. This will indicate usage patterns which may provide more favourable health care outcomes with regard to hospital and residential care admissions.'

Working in close collaboration with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC), the research team will access state-wide HACC data from 2002 to 2007, in accordance with all legal and ethical principles. Information regarding NSW hospital admissions will be collected, and these two data sets will be analysed and linked with data collected by the 45 and Up Study (managed by the Sax Institute), a long-term study of the health and lifestyle characteristics of Australians aged 45 years and over.



The data from the 45 and Up Study, when linked with HACC and hospital use data, will allow the research team to explore older people's capacity to remain in the community and personal, environmental and service-related factors influencing HACC usage.

This project will provide valuable information about met and unmet needs for health care services by older Australians, informing planning and policy in HACC services.

Project Title: The 45 and Up Study: exploring met and unmet needs for home care in NSW
Funding has been set at: \$101,773
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