

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Community Care and Older Men

Professor John Macdonald and Mr Anthony Brown from the Social Justice Social Change Research Centre and the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences are exploring the social and support needs of frail older men in accessing Home and Community Care (HACC) services, through a one year NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care NSW HACC Research Grant Project.

'Existing research regarding delivery of care services to frail older people indicates that twice as many women of all ages utilise HACC services compared to men,' says Professor Macdonald. 'While there are more women than men in the general population, the rates of access of these services by people aged 65 to 79 is not consistent with the relative number of men and women in the these age groups. There is little academic evidence to indicate what social, attitudinal, policy or psychological factors are contributing to this apparent lack of service provision. The aim of this project is to attempt to determine why older men appear to be missing out on HACC services, by going straight to the source, and asking older men, their carers and service providers about their experiences with current care services.'

Using a combination of data analysis sources and methods, the research team will gather information about HACC service usage rates for men and women, what role (carer or cared for) people who access the services play, and what services are used or not used by different types of people. Interviews and focus groups with men, their carers and service providers will explore the different attitudes and assumptions being made about HACC services, and information about what currently



supports or inhibits access to these services.

This project will provide valuable insights into how HACC services could be restructured to introduce strategies, policies and interventions that support frail older men, while still maintaining good access rates for other client groups. This will ultimately improve the quality of care, and quality of life of frail older men and their families in urban and rural communities.

Project Title: Older Men and HACC Services – review of current HACC service usage by frail older men, an investigation into preferred models of delivering HACC services to frail older men.

Funding has been set at: \$106,807

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