

Research on CaLD Ageing: Aspirational or Imperative!

I would acknowledge that for many years there has been an aspirational objective to include research on CaLD ageing and aged and community care in topics such as access and equity; demographic studies; gerontology perspectives; palliative care; dementia; submissions for funding; inquiries; at conferences and such. These attempts should be acknowledged and lauded yet an overview of the landscape **could** conclude that the research impact has been at best patchy, inconclusive and an insignificant contributor to generalist policies and practices in ageing.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) ageing research has been reliant largely on the interests, passion and advocacy of individual researchers, organisations and faculties. It remains aspirational because the generalist deep breathe is audible... wouldn't it be great to investigate if...??? what...??? why...??? if only we had more money **or** resources; **or** the right staff **or** links to CaLD ageing experts **or** data **or** people willing to engage...**or...SIGH!!!**

If research is conducted and with the best aspirational goodwill in conducting CaLD research the tonal response to that research has occasionally been dismissive. CaLD research may even be trivialised as anecdotal narratives; contrived analysis; off key with current objective mainstream perspectives and priorities and inconsistent methodologies and terminologies all have been cited as deficiencies in CaLD research on ageing. It has contributed to dampening the aspirational objectives of those who would like to do research or those who would like to integrate some CaLD perspectives into generalist themes.

Whilst research on CaLD ageing remains **aspirational** then the topic of CaLD ageing remains exotic, optional and marginalised. When research on CaLD ageing lingers at best on the shelves and on the fringes of ageing priorities the gaps to corporate knowledge widen and the provision of targeted, integrated aged and community care programs compromised.

Addressing the research gaps in the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) ageing and aged and community care sector is an urgent priority because only through the results of diverse research projects can the sector be better informed and the whole sector better develop inclusive and responsive policies and programs to meet the needs of older CaLD persons in Australia.

CaLD ageing research is imperative!

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Not only because CaLD ageing research will contribute to Australian knowledge capital about ageing and will be more reflective of and responsive to the reality of our society but also with 25% + of the over 65 cohort from a CaLD background then there are many things we need to know if we are to deliver targeted, responsive; consumer directed; person centred care.

I am looking forward to hearing what is coming next, I know at Flinders University there is research happening...there is more around Australia and more can be done.

It is imperative that all ageing research contains CaLD perspectives integrated into the thesis, exposition and execution. It is imperative that specific CaLD ageing topics are canvassed.

There is urgent need for a considered, coordinated approach to research in the CaLD ageing and aged and community care area. Qualitative research on the specific and special requirements of older CaLD people living in Australia is imperative so that aged and community care programs and services; and Gerontology studies can be responsive to and reflective of their needs.

Gerontology studies and conferences on wide ranging topics are mainly ignoring the CaLD perspectives because the qualitative research is minimal and the importance of issues and the innovation and targeted work of the national Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care (PICAC) programs is largely unknown and undervalued.

Even the area of Cultural Competency training is heavily reliant on and predicated on health and wellbeing parameters and paradigms. MAC has continued to engage in qualitative research so that its cultural briefings; cultural competency training and workshops are underpinned by informed, considered parameters and paradigms of CaLD ageing and aged and community care.

A list of research topics is canvassed as requiring attention. And there's more.

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Research opportunities include:

- Investigating degrees of reverting to primary languages and cultures in Australia
- Harnessing information collected from the PICAC Programs over 16 years and collating, analysing and disseminating much more than processes but identification of CaLD specific priorities; CaLD better practice models.
- Collation and analysis of the narratives of CaLD older persons in care in Australia.
- Comparative research: care in country of origin and Australia (Italy; Greece).
- Clinical aged and community care: Australian CaLD perspectives and imperatives.
- Gerontology: Australian CaLD perspectives and implications for policies and programs
- Accreditation and Complaints processes and the marginalisation of CaLD perspectives.
- Australian CaLD ageing and service provision imperatives: definitions; paradigms; marginalisation; CaLD cognitive impairments, reversion to first language and first culture.
- Analysing the cultural parameters and principles of CaLD older persons' engagement with the aged and community care sector.
- Connecting new and emerging communities with aged and community care sector