



45 and Up Study: 6th Annual Collaborators
Meeting
Policy and Practice Relevant Research
Workshop – 25 September 2009.

About UnitingCare Ageing



- Owned by Uniting Church and one of three Service Groups in UnitingCare NSW.ACT
- Single largest provider in NSW/ACT and part of the largest provider in Australia – 8% market share in NSW/ACT (12% nationally)
- 84 residential aged care facilities, 79 retirement villages (3,000 residents), 5,500 community care clients
- 5,500 staff in UC Ageing – 7,000 UnitingCare
- Annual turnover in 2007/8 - \$370m

Opportunities: 45 and Up study



- Positions UnitingCare NSW.ACT as a leader in contribution to research to inform better policy and practice.
- Facilitates a more proactive relationship with research institutions.
- Contributes to innovation programs
- Branding for UnitingCare NSW.ACT
- Better understanding of our clients and staff.

Strategic Context for Research



- INSPIRE Strategy 2006-2011
- New Service Model adopted in 2009 after extensive consultation
- **Service Model responds to:**
 - Changing consumer expectations about ageing - community care
 - Increased acuity and care needs of older people in care
 - Greater diversity of older population – income, cultural background, life experiences, spiritual etc
 - Possible deregulation of supply side in aged care

- **1. Evaluation of effectiveness**
Community Day Programs
- Focus on current models funded through HACCC and involving partnerships with congregations
- UnitingCare Ageing a leader in Men's Sheds and other programs about social connection
- A wellness and restorative health perspective

- Plan of Action agreed with Sax Institute
- Develop proposal for ARC Linkage Grant
- March 2010
- Collaborate with DADHC on pilot study to inform application
- Before and after study so attempt to use 45 and Up data to compare other cohorts of people using HACC services

- **2. Chronic and Complex Care Need of Clients**
- A foundation project for us to understand what we mean in our Service Model about being “specialised in chronic illness and disability for older people”
- Use our 14,000 clients to define “Chronic Disease and Disability” in aged care context
- May use comparison group from HACCC users on Sax data base.
- Our interest is in understanding the predictors for care across care settings; client outcomes (what they value across care settings) and appropriate interventions

- Plan of Action Agreed with Sax Institute
- UnitingCare Ageing is working with Sax Institute to prepare a brief for this project on a fee for service basis.

- **3. How attitudes change about ageing over time**
- The idea behind this project is to leverage off the 45 and Up Study to understand how people's attitudes to ageing, their need for care and support, their housing etc – changed over time

- Plan of Action Agreed with Sax Institute
- Exploration about working with other sub-studies involved on the theme of maintaining independence in older age and transition to retirement
- Explore use of 45 and Up Study data for specialised analysis around this research theme

- **4. Indigenous Aged Care**
- The idea is to understand the experience of indigenous clients currently receiving community care services through UnitingCare Ageing
- We would like to eventually compare this data with a sample of people on the 45 and Up Study (cohort is 2,000)
- Study will inform our thinking about culturally appropriate care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island elders.

- Plan Agreed with Sax Institute
- Sax will assist UnitingCare Ageing to develop a research brief for a detailed qualitative study of its own indigenous clients and use this as a starting point for further enquiry
- Sax will assist with linkages to other researchers involved in Aboriginal Health and the Sax Indigenous Health Program