

THE 45 AND UP E – NEWS



Research to improve health and wellbeing

www.45andup.org.au

Issue 1
May 2006

Welcome to the first issue of the **45 and Up E-News**. The purpose of this bi-monthly update is to keep you informed about the Study's progress and findings.

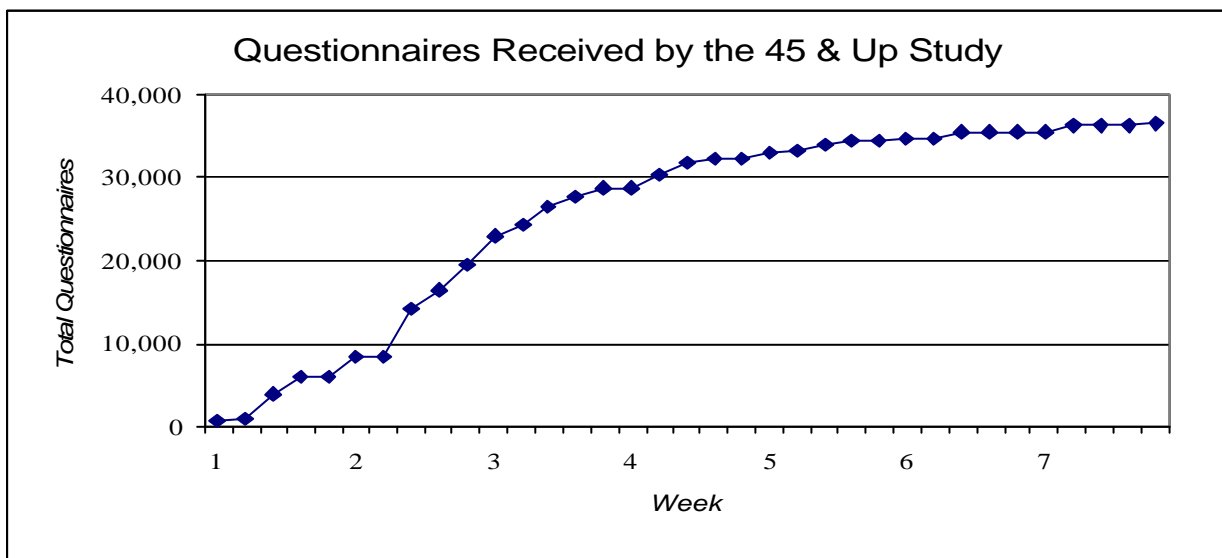
Fantastic Response to First Mail-Out!

As at mid-April, over 37,000 people have already returned their questionnaires to join the Study and another 1,500 people have volunteered to participate. This makes 45 and Up already the second largest follow-up study on ageing in Australia.

For a two week period from 6 February, questionnaires and information pamphlets were mailed to randomly selected men and women across NSW aged 45 and over inviting them to participate in the Study. To help promote the Study and encourage community participation, a regional media and communications campaign was also undertaken.

The Study Helpline handled over 2000 enquiries from those who had received a questionnaire in the mail and from people volunteering to participate in the Study.

This graph shows the number of participants who sent responses from the first mail-out in February 2006 until early April 2006.



We are currently in the process of entering the questionnaire data and hope to get out a snapshot of the first set of Study data by the end of June.

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Community, Consumer and Ethical Accountability

This Study is in the process of developing a framework to ensure that it manages ethics, intellectual property and research governance to the highest possible standards.

Progress Made

- We have been working on a framework that sets out the principles and philosophy of the Study. The *45 and Up Study Research and Governance Integrity: A Proposed Framework for Managing Ethics, Intellectual Property and Research* will be available shortly.
- We have established the **Community and Ethical Oversight Committee**. This committee is chaired by Ms Irene Moss and incorporates ethical, legal, consumer and research governance expertise with members including Professor Warwick Anderson, Ms Betty Johnson, Ms Deborah Frew and the Hon John Fahey. It will provide advice to the Study Management Committee about its research governance. The Committee's Terms of Reference and Membership can be found at <http://www.saxinstitute.org.au/researchassetsprograms/UnderstandingAgeing-the45andUpStudy/CommunityandEthicalOversightCommittee.cfm?objid=622>.
- We are establishing the **Community and Consumer Committee** that will be chaired by Ms Betty Johnson.

Using data from 45 and Up

As data from the Study will soon be available to NSW researchers, we are developing our policies and processes for accessing the data. We have produced a paper outlining our approach and this will be available shortly for comment at www.saxinstitute.org.au.

Data Use

We hope that NSW researchers will use the 45 and Up Study in their research. A number of grant applications based on 45 and Up have already been submitted and are currently being considered by NHRMC and ARC.

If you are a researcher and would like to use the Study's data, you can apply to the Scientific Advisory Committee for access. Applications forms and further information are available at www.saxinstitute.org.au.

Other News

A very big welcome to Sue Zeckendorf who joined us last month as our new **45 and Up Study Manager**.

Further Information

If you would like to know more about any of the above, please contact Sue Zeckendorf on (02) 9334 1810 or e-mail sue.zeckendorf@saxinstitute.org.au

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