



NZiRA News No.31 – July 2007

From the Director

It is increasingly clear that a regular monthly newsletter doesn't fit well with the pattern of NZiRA's work programme this year; in future this form of communication is more likely to appear at periodic intervals, and be dated accordingly.

Postgraduate Symposium for Emerging Researchers in Ageing, June 2007

NZiRA was delighted to host the 3rd of these national meetings for postgraduate students at the School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington, on June 5-6, 2007. There were over 40 participants over the two days, and presentations from graduates embarking on new research in many aspects of ageing. The booklet with the abstracts and outlines of the sessions is now on the NZiRA website in the News section. We acknowledge with thanks several sponsors who committed resources to support this symposium, in particular, by being able to offer travel grants to postgraduates attending.

- ✓ The BRCSS Network: Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences
- ✓ Office for Senior Citizens, and the Centre for Social Research and Evaluation (Ministry of Social Development)
- ✓ New Zealand Association of Gerontology
- ✓ The HOPE Foundation for Research on Ageing

NZiRA also valued the material provided by Statistics New Zealand for participants, with information about accessing 2006 Interim Census data.

Feedback from the 2007 NZiRA Symposium

Participants during the final session on day two were asked to complete a brief evaluation. Overall, the feedback on the prior organisation, catering, opportunities for networking, the venue and programme material were very positive. In relation to which of the sessions or panels were most useful, again the response was overwhelming positive. In addition, many commented that all the sessions and panels were useful. Other comments included that the entire programme was excellent and all of the sessions were interesting. Overall, the programme was well timed to allow travelling arrangements, and for informal networking.

General comments about the symposium included

- *“Just keep it up, great networking opportunity”*
- *“Thank you so much it has been brilliant”*
- *“Greatly inspired”*
- *“Looking forward to the next symposium”*



One of the sponsors supporting the Postgraduate Symposium, was the Office for Senior Citizens. Maria McNeill (from the OSC) and Sally Keeling are showing one of the satchels made available to those attending the symposium.

Farewell: Dr Virginia Wilton

Virginia has worked as a Research Fellow at NZiRA for the last 3 years, and her contribution to NZiRA's research programme is retained in the publications record from 2004-2007. In particular she has worked on Aotearoa Ageing, Equity Release, Older Pedestrians, Positive Ageing Strategy reports, Health Work and Retirement, Grandparents and Grandfathers. She has also made a significant contribution to the development of the NZiRA library, and to the administration of the Postgraduate Symposium in both 2005 and 2007. While it is not such good news for NZiRA that her contract has ended, it is good news that she is staying within the sector, in her new role. She takes up a position this month as a Policy Analyst within the Older Person's Policy Unit within the Ministry of Social Development.

Director's Diary: notes of meetings, presentations, discussions

May

Families Commission Blue Skies Day

University of Auckland + University of Sheffield

Ministry of Research Science and Technology: Bilateral Science Links with Japan.

CCS, Canterbury

June

Ministry of Social Development

Labour Party Policy Council

Accident Compensation Commission

Mental Health Foundation

Carers NZ, Carers Alliance – Research Strategy

Research Trust of Victoria -Research Luncheon, Theme: Families Young and Old.

Health Research Council: new project approved June 2007

Congratulations to Dr Janine Wiles and her group of researchers from the University of Auckland, in the recent HRC funding round. The team includes Associate Professor Ngaire Kerse, Mrs Liz Kiata and Prof Annette Leibing, and they have a grant for 3 years, to work on a project entitled **Resilient ageing in place: Improving the lives of older people in NZ communities.**

Emerging Issues Project: School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington

Since 2006, NZiRA has moved into the School of Government, which is a part of the University which has as part of its mission to bring academic knowledge and expertise to bear on the questions, issues and problems of the public sector. In this area, the School has a three year collaborative programme to support policy-relevant research and discussions between the public sector and researchers, currently funded by a pool contributed from the Chief Executives representing all government departments, and managed jointly by the University and the State Services Commission. Population ageing has been identified as a priority issue in the current series of projects (others include climate change, Pacific Island governance, management of citizen-focussed public services, and models for public and private funding of healthcare. NZiRA is currently developing a programme of activities (likely to take the form of discussion papers prepared for publication, and contribution into forum or roundtable meetings) over the coming months, which makes a research-based contribution to wider consideration through the Emerging Issues Project.

Health Services Research Centre:

Lunchtime seminar

Ageing populations:
focus for a social and health research agenda

Len Cook

Thursday 2 August 2007 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Railway 312, Level 3, West Wing Railway Station

Pipitea Campus, Victoria University, Wellington