

Longitudinal studies of ageing

Implications for future studies

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency. The Institute's mission is *better health and wellbeing for Australians through better health and welfare statistics and information.*

Longitudinal studies of ageing

Implications for future studies

**Heather Logie
Rebecca Hogan
Ann Peut**

November 2004

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

AIHW cat. no. AGE 42

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2004

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced without prior written permission from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the Head, Media and Publishing, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Publications Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's web site (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>).

ISBN 1 74024 423 0

Suggested citation

AIHW: Logie H, Hogan R & Peut A 2004. Longitudinal studies of ageing: Implications for future studies. AIHW cat. no. AGE 42. Canberra: AIHW.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair
Hon. Peter Collins, QC, AM

Director
Dr Richard Madden

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Ageing and Aged Care Unit
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
GPO Box 570
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6244 1000

Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Printed by PIRION

Contents

Preface.....	vii
Acknowledgments.....	viii
Abbreviations.....	ix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 'Ageing' as an area of research.....	1
1.2 Longitudinal studies as part of the evidence base	2
1.3 The scope and purpose of this report.....	4
2 Longitudinal studies and ageing	5
2.1 Studies included in the overview	6
2.2 Comparing the studies	7
3 Comparing methodology	16
3.1 Sampling.....	16
3.2 Cohort design	19
3.3 Timeframes	21
3.4 Data collection methods.....	23
4 Comparing content	29
4.1 Key policy themes.....	29
4.2 Comparing content by priority policy themes.....	29
4.3 Summary	41
5 Funding longitudinal research into ageing	44
5.1 Types of funding	44
5.2 Funding issues in longitudinal research.....	46
6 Conclusions.....	48
6.1 Main features of longitudinal studies	48
6.2 Potential for international comparison	49
6.3 Contribution of this report.....	50
References	52
Appendix A Matrix of longitudinal studies relevant to ageing in Australia	52
Appendix B English Longitudinal Study of Ageing	71

Appendix C	Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging	79
Appendix D	Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing	83
Appendix E	45 and Up.....	95
Appendix F	The Dubbo Study of the Health of the Elderly.....	101
Appendix G	Melbourne Longitudinal Studies on Healthy Ageing Program	106
Appendix H	The Sydney Older Persons Study.....	109
Appendix I	Healthy Retirement Project.....	120
Appendix J	Stories of Ageing	124
Appendix K	Canberra Longitudinal Study of Ageing	128
Appendix L	Florey Adelaide Male Aging Study.....	132
Appendix M	Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study (Health 2000)	136
Appendix N	A Longitudinal Study of Bone Loss in Men.....	142
Appendix O	The South Australian Dental Longitudinal Study	146
Appendix P	Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health	153
Appendix Q	PATH Through Life Project.....	161
Appendix R	Negotiating the Life Course.....	166
Appendix S	The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey.....	172
Appendix T	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia	179
Appendix U	AusDiab Follow-up Study	185
Appendix V	Australian Temperament Project.....	189
Appendix W	Growing Up in Australia.....	194
Appendix X	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth.....	202

Preface

In 2003, the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) produced a report *Promoting Healthy Ageing in Australia* which argued that a large and comprehensive national study is needed to investigate the many influences on ageing outcomes for Australian people (PMSEIC 2003). It recommended that an Australian Longitudinal Study of Older People (ALSOP) be established, and suggested that the study give priority to areas potentially improvable and important for the health, functioning and wellbeing of older people. These include:

- the behavioural determinants of health in older age (particularly mental activity, physical activity and good nutrition);
- work environments, retirement, social involvement including family and community contributions; and
- housing, land use and assistive technology.

In January 2004, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to produce this report, *Longitudinal Studies of Ageing: Implications for Future Studies*, which describes and compares existing and proposed Australian longitudinal surveys relevant to ageing, in respect of their methodological features and data collection scope. The report also compares these features of Australian studies with some well-established overseas longitudinal projects.

The report is a mapping exercise intended to be a practical resource for informing future efforts to address ageing research needs in Australia

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by Heather Logie, Rebecca Hogan and Ann Peut. However, the contributions of a number of people were essential to the completion of this project, particularly Stan Bennett and Jennifer Blakeslee from the Ageing and Aged Care Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

In addition, valuable comments on draft versions of this report were provided by members of the Steering Committee, including Mark Thomann and Gail Stevenson (Office For an Ageing Australia, Department of Health and Ageing), Joy Eshpeter and Wilawan Kanjanapan (Health Information Policy Branch, Department of Health and Ageing), Diane Gibson (Welfare Division, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare), Suzanne Northcott and David Clarkson (Centre for Research Management, National Health and Medical Research Council), Robert Porteous (Strategic Policy and Knowledge Branch, Department of Family and Community Services), Maryann Wood (National Ageing Statistics Unit, Australian Bureau of Statistics), and Elim Papadakis (Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences, Australian Research Council).

Finally, we acknowledge and appreciate the information and comments provided by investigators associated with the longitudinal studies that have been included in this report.

Abbreviations

45 and Up	45 and Up Study
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACER	Australian Council for Educational Research
ACSPRI	Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADAMS	The Aging, Demographics and Memory Study
ADL	Activity of Daily Living
AHEAD	Study of Assets and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest Old
AIFS	Australian Institute of Family Studies
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ALSA	Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing
ALSWH	Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health
ANU	Australian National University
ApoE	Apolipoprotein E
ARC	Australian Research Council
ARO	Ageing Research Online
ASSDA	Australian Social Science Data Archive
ATP	Australian Temperament Project
AUSDIAB	AusDiab Follow-up Study
BLM	A Longitudinal Study of Bone Loss in Men
BLSA	Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
CERA	Centre for Education and Research on Ageing
CES-D	Center for the Epidemiologic Studies – Depression
CLSA	Canberra Longitudinal Study of Ageing
CMHR	Centre for Mental Health Research
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEST	Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training
DIMA	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DIMIA	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
DSRU	Dental Statistics and Research Unit
DUBBO	The Dubbo Study of the Health of the Elderly
ECG	Electrocardiogram
ECHIDNAs	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease, Health Interventions and DNA studies
ELSA	English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
FaCS	Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services
FAHS	Functional Ageing and Health Services Project
FAMAS	Florey Adelaide Male Aging Study
GHQ	General Health Questionnaire
GP	General Practitioner
HBOA	Health, Behaviour and Outcomes of Older Adults Project
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
HILDA	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey
HRP	Healthy Retirement Project
HRS	Health and Retirement Study
HSE	Health Survey for England
HSOP	Health Status of Older People Project
IADL	Instrumental Activity of Daily Living
ICPSR	Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
IFS	Institute for Fiscal Studies
IHR	Institute for Health Research
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
LSAC	Growing Up in Australia – The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
LSAY	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth
LSIA	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia
MCCS	Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study
MELSHA	Melbourne Longitudinal Studies on Healthy Ageing Program
METs	Metabolic equivalent tasks
MNRF	Major National Research Facilities
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MU	Migrating Unit Spouse
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NIA	National Institute on Aging
NIDR	National Institute of Dental Research

NIH	National Institute of Health
NLC	Negotiating the Life Course
NSW	New South Wales
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHIP	Oral Health Impact Profile
PA	Primary Applicant
PATH	The Personality and Total Health Through Life Project
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PMSEIC	Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council
RSSS	Research School of Social Sciences
SA	South Australia
SADLS	The South Australian Dental Longitudinal Study
SoA	Stories of Ageing: A Longitudinal Study of Women's Self-Representation
SOPS	Sydney Older Persons Study
SPIRT	Strategic Partnerships with Industry-Research and Training
UCL	University College London
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
VicHealth	Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
WA	Western Australia
XI	Xerostomia Inventory
—	no information provided