



2022 SYMPOSIUM

Social Connection in Older Age



Researching social connection in the real world: Showcasing a developing robust evidence base

Friday 4th March 2022

1.00pm – 4:30pm AEDT

Social isolation and loneliness are significant public health issues in Australia, and worldwide, and can lead to a variety of negative health effects.

Hosted by the [Bolton Clarke Research Institute](#), this 2022 virtual symposium will:

- Outline how we can work collaboratively to create a socially connected communities that support members.
- Showcase the developing robust evidence base of current activities in this space.
- Map the steps for making social connection '*business as usual*' within our communities, and health and social care systems.

Throughout the 2022 Symposium, you will hear from a diverse group of policy makers, researchers, and service providers, who are all working to prevent and reduce social isolation and loneliness among older Australians.

Program



1.00pm AEDT	Welcome and opening
1.00 – 1.05pm	Acknowledgement of Country and welcome Mr. Pat McIntosh AM CSC: Chairman, Bolton Clarke Board
1.10 – 1.15pm	Opening Address Professor John Pollaers OAM: Chancellor, Swinburne University of Technology; Executive Chairman, Leef Independent Living Solutions; Chair, Ending Loneliness Together Advisory Group
1.15 – 2.30pm	Session 1: Setting the scene and foundation building Chair – Dr Rajna Ogrin: Senior Research Fellow, Bolton Clarke Research Institute
1.15 – 1.30pm	Social connection and wellbeing as voiced by Older Australians Mr Danny Vadasz: CEO, Health Issues Centre
1.30 – 1.50pm	Social connection as a path to social cure: A social identity perspective Professor Cath Haslam: School of Psychology, University of Queensland; Director, SIGNify
1.50 – 2.10pm	Social connection in older age: Evidence into practice Professor Jane Farmer: Professor, Health and Social Innovation; Director, Swinburne Social Innovation Research Institute
2.10 – 2.20pm	Stretch break
2.20 – 3.30pm	Session 2: Implementing and evaluating an evidence-based, holistic, whole of community approach to wellbeing Chair – Ms Deidre McGill: Executive General Manager, At Home Support, Bolton Clarke
2.25 – 2.40pm	Using evidence base to codesign: Connecting Communities to Care Ms Kerry Rendell: Project Manager, Bolton Clarke; and Dr Rajna Ogrin: Project Lead, Bolton Clarke Research Institute
2.40 – 2.55pm	Gathering the evidence: Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Social Prescribing Program Mr Rodney Mackintosh: Manager, Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership
2.55 – 3.10pm	Tips and hints for evaluating social prescribing programs for loneliness Associate Professor Genevieve Dingle: Project Lead, Research, Ways to Wellness; Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology; Director of Clinical Psychology Programs, University of Queensland
3.10 – 3.30pm	Panel discussion: Session 2 speakers
3.30 – 4.30pm	Session 3: How to make social connection activities Business as Usual in Australia Chair – Professor Judy Lowthian: Head of Research and Principal Research Fellow, Bolton Clarke Research Institute
3.35 – 3.40pm	Enabling social connection in Australia: Ending loneliness together Associate Professor Michelle Lim: Chairperson & Scientific Chair, Ending Loneliness Together; Senior Lecturer Clinical Psychology & Director, Social Health and Wellbeing (SHAW) Laboratory, Swinburne University
3.40 – 3.45pm	Enabling social connection in Australia: Australian Disease Management Association Dr Daniel Fineberg: Australian Disease Management Association; General Medicine Consultant, Alfred Health
3.45 – 3.55pm	Enabling social connection in the UK: what can Australia learn? Dr Bogdan Chiva Giurca: Development Lead Global Alliance for Social Prescribing; Clinical Champion Lead National Academy for Social Prescribing
3.55 – 4.25pm	Panel discussion: Session 3 speakers
4.25 – 4.30pm	Closing remarks Clinical Associate Professor Wendy Zernike: Executive General Manager, Care Quality Innovation, Bolton Clarke



About Bolton Clarke

Bolton Clarke is Australia's most experienced not-for-profit aged care provider of health and independent living services supporting and enabling older people across at home support, retirement living and residential aged care.

As trusted partners in community health care, we deliver services for more than 130,000 clients and residents and work alongside aged care and senior living communities, hospitals, doctors and other healthcare providers to support health, wellness and independence.

The work of the Bolton Clarke Research Institute underpins everything we do across our services continuum and contributes to the evidence base for national and international health and aged care policy and new models of care and support.

Speakers and Chairs

Mr Pat McIntosh AM CSC

B.Bus (Acc/HR), GradDip Mngt, MBA, MAICD
Chairman of the Board, Bolton Clarke

Mr McIntosh was a senior officer in the Australian Army where he served for 27 years. Following his service, Mr McIntosh worked in the finance sector for 13 years and established a financial planning business. He is the Chair of Altura Learning, RDNS Hong Kong, and RDNS New Zealand.



Professor John Pollaers OAM

Chancellor, Swinburne University of Technology;
Executive Chairman, Leef Independent Living
Solutions; Chair, Ending Loneliness Together
Advisory Group

John Pollaers has a proven track record in leading major Australian and international companies including Pacific Brands and Foster's Group, and in his current role is working across Government to bring about major reforms to vocational education and training and aged care.



Session 1: Setting the scene – Foundation building

Mr Danny Vadasz

CEO, Health Issues Centre

Danny is CEO of the Health Issues Centre (HIC), the peak consumer health advocacy body in Victoria. HIC's core work is to advocate for consumer aspirations and perspectives in Health and Medical Research, public policy development and health service delivery.





Professor Cath Haslam

Director, SIGNify; Professor, School of Psychology, University of Queensland

Cath Haslam is Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Queensland and the Director of SIGNify which aims to translate the research of the Social Identity Groups Network to practice.



Professor Jane Farmer

Professor, Health and Social Innovation; Director, Swinburne Social Innovation Research Institute

Jane Farmer is Director of Swinburne Social Innovation Research Institute and Professor of Health & Social Innovation. She has 30 years research expertise in community participation and has led research internationally, including a €2m project across 5 European Countries on older people's engagement in social enterprise.



Session 2: Implementing and evaluating an evidence-based, holistic, whole of community approach to wellbeing

Ms Kerry Rendell

Project Manager, Connecting Communities to Care, Bolton Clarke

Since joining Bolton Clarke late 2015, Kerry has developed and led the implementation of their preventative health initiative – Be Healthy and Active, and now holds a dual role as Project Manager for Connecting Communities to Care.



Dr Rajna Ogrin

Project Lead, Connecting Communities to Care, Bolton Clarke Research Institute

Rajna completed a PhD and post-doctoral studies in the area of providing best practice care in people with diabetes and older people with wounds. Her research has naturally evolved into developing services and education resources that have been co-designed with community members to improve health outcomes for people with diabetes, vulnerable groups and older people in general, translating evidence into practice.





Mr Rod Mackintosh

Manager, Frankston-Mornington Peninsula
Primary Care Partnership

Rod joined Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership (FMPPCP) in June 2015 as Executive Officer. Prior to joining FMPPCP, Rod worked with the Frankston Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local. He is committed to making a difference through promoting collaboration and partnership for sustained benefit and positive outcomes for local communities.



Associate Professor Genevieve Dingle

Project Lead, Research, Ways to Wellness;
Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology;
Director of Clinical Psychology Programs,
University of Queensland

Genevieve is an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology and Director of the Clinical Psychology Programs at the University of Queensland. Her research focuses on how groups and communities can influence the mental health and wellbeing of adults of all ages.



Session 3: How to make social connection activities Business as Usual in Australia?

Associate Professor Michelle Lim

Chairperson & Scientific Chair, Ending Loneliness Together; Senior Lecturer Clinical Psychology & Director, Social Health and Wellbeing (SHAW) Laboratory, Swinburne University

Associate Professor Michelle Lim is the inaugural Chairperson and Scientific Chair of Ending Loneliness Together. She is considered the leading Australian scientific expert in loneliness, with more than 100 national media appearances to date.



Dr Daniel Fineberg

Australian Disease Management Association;
General Medicine Consultant, Alfred Health

Dr Fineberg is part of the team of Australian Disease Management Association, ADMA, involved in bridging connections between those undertaking social connection activities, including hosting webinars and various initiatives to support social isolation and social prescribing. He is also a collaborator on Connecting Communities to Care.





Dr Bogdan Chiva Giurca

Development Lead Global Alliance for Social Prescribing; Clinical Champion Lead National Academy for Social Prescribing; Medical Doctor, London, South Thames Foundation School; and Collaborator, Harvard Global Health Institute

Bogdan has worked as part of the National Primary Care Team as a student voice for the UK National Healthcare System (NHS) Director for Primary Care. His work has influenced national healthcare policy and has driven key changes within the Undergraduate medical school curriculum.



Closing remarks

Clinical Associate Professor Wendy Zernike

Executive General Manager - Care Quality Innovation, Bolton Clarke

Wendy brings to the aged care sector extensive clinical governance and consumer engagement expertise, with a focus on developing innovative delivery models in health/aged care, both nationally and internationally. With demonstrated achievements in active community participation, Wendy knows first-hand the benefit education brings to developing communities, and the value it creates for individuals and their families.



Session Chairs

Session 1 Chair: Dr Rajna Ogrin

Senior Research Fellow, Bolton Clarke Research Institute

See speaker notes above.

Session 2 Chair: Ms Deidre McGill

Executive General Manager – At Home Support, Bolton Clarke

Deidre McGill is the Executive General Manager of the Bolton Clarke At Home Support division nationally. An experienced health care leader with more than 35 years' experience leading high performing teams in the community and hospital environments. Deidre has worked nationally and internationally in healthcare and ageing.



Session 3 Chair: Professor Judy Lowthian

Head of Research and Principal Research Fellow, Bolton Clarke Research Institute

Judy is the Head of Research and Principal Research Fellow at Bolton Clarke and an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at The University of Queensland, Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, and in the Institute of Future Environments, Queensland University of Technology.

