Call for Papers

Primary Health Care in an Ageing Society

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The Australian Journal of Primary Health invites papers on the intersection of primary health care and the health and wellbeing of older people. Papers may be forum articles addressing policy, research and service delivery issues, research papers, literature reviews and papers on practice and innovation.

Overview: Dramatically increased life expectancy combined with post-World War 2 demographic change have seen much greater numbers of people living well into their 80s and 90s in advanced economies. Population ageing has many positive benefits, but it also introduces challenges for health and aged care for older people. Over 15% of the Australian population is now aged 65 or over and the proportion will continue to grow over the next three decades as the baby boomers reach old age. ¹

As people get older, they are more likely to develop chronic disease. Chronic conditions, including cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurological disease, are now the most significant burden on the health system and the main reasons older people need long term care. Demographic and social change mean fewer people are available to provide informal care and support for older people.

Governments are under pressure to make sure they provide high quality, accessible long-term care services while also managing the pressure providing more services puts on their budgets.² People overwhelmingly want these services to be provided at home and in the community. More and better integrated primary and community services is generally seen as part of the solution toward more effective and efficient care for older people.

Key questions: Papers may address the following topics (or other relevant questions):

- How can primary health care be better integrated with aged care?
- How should services for specific conditions like dementia be provided?
- What are the issues in end of life care and how should they be addressed?
- What is the role of general practice in residential aged care?
- What are the best primary health care models for self-managing chronic disease in older people?
- How should we train an interdisciplinary workforce to meet the needs of older Australians living at home and in the community?
- How will the digital revolution affect primary and community care for older people?
- What is the role of pharmacy in providing primary and community care for older people?
- What support do we need to provide for people caring for older people?
- How can we shift the focus in services for older people to wellness and rehabilitation?
- How should we address isolation, social engagement and economic participation for older people?
- How should we address diversity in aged care services?

Submission: We invite submissions by 30th June 2020, with subsequent peer review in the usual manner, swift online publication following acceptance, and the issue out in early 2021. Submissions should conform to the Author Instructions. Please submit your manuscript online at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/csiro-py.

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¹ https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/3101.0Feature%20Article1Jun%202018?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3101.0&issue=Jun%202018&num=&view=