

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### Mapping the Aged Care Industry and Ageing Issues in the Bathurst Region

#### Project Team:

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#### Background:

It is forecast that by 2021 the number of Australians aged 65 years and over will increase to 18% of the population (4.2 million). Based on these projections, in forty years time, one quarter of the population (6.6 million) could be aged 65 years and over.

#### Objectives:

- Mapping of aged care services in the Bathurst region
- Mapping of aged care issues
- Identification of large economic, social, and environmental problems associated with the ageing population
- Identification of problems in maintaining sustainable communities in rural and regional Australia
- Development of an ARC competitive grant application to be lodged in 2008

#### Study Areas:

The project has selected a regional city, town, and rural village as there appear to be differences in the ageing experience.

- Bathurst (city population 37,000),
- Blayney (town population 3,000)
- Wattle Flat (rural village population 275)

#### Methods:

1. A literature review: national and international publications on ageing populations in rural and regional communities.
2. A comprehensive analysis of ABS 1996, 2001 and 2006 demographic statistics for the Central West SLA.
3. The Interview Programme: (approx. 30 interviews)
  - Face-to-face interviews with government providers (local and state)
  - A series of face-to-face interviews with agencies and stakeholders in Bathurst, Blayney, and Wattle Flat.
4. 4 focus groups with seniors (60+ years) in each of the localities



#### Projected Outcomes:

- A written report for community stakeholders and participants in the research
- A community workshop to explain the research findings
- The publication of an article in an Australian social policy journal
- In collaboration with community partners, the development of a proposal for a major three year project in the region (2009-2011) which will examine issues raised by the pilot project.

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