

Supporting Ageing Well Research: Findings from a Research Priority Setting Exercise

Doolan-Noble et al. (2019)
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For which topic were research priorities identified?

ageing well

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Australia - New Zealand

Why was it conducted at all?

The NZ healthcare system is facing severe resource constraint, making it difficult for adequate resources to be allocated to all key sectors of development. Priority setting (or rationing) in health care continues to be a politically charged topic, but recently, its necessity has gained wider recognition. Explicitly addressing priority setting is necessary to develop fairer methods of allocation for scarce healthcare resources and to begin a public dialogue to ensure legitimacy in the process. The AWNSC team recognised the importance of transparency in setting priorities, by acknowledging the need for public discussions in order to make the need for priority setting clear.

What was the objective?

to guide funding priorities for the Ageing Well National Science Challenge in New Zealand

What was the outcome?

a list of 3 research areas

How long did the research prioritization take?

February 2017 - June 2017

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

workshop

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: workshops with nominal group technique: small group discussions on main issues for ageing and older adults in relation to physical, social, financial and mind health, as well as those related to their environment and the provision of health services, small group discussions noted on flipchart, participants were given three sticky dots to use as votes, votes counted, prioritized list was then fed back and participants were then asked to consider how they would address the top three prioritized issues and how they would recognize if they or their organization had made an impact and what would the improvement or change look like

Which stakeholders took part?

Researchers, healthcare and service providers and representatives from community-dwelling older adults, NGOs and Māori and Pacific providers. 133 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited from the community by sending personal invitations to the AWNSC stakeholder list (approximately N=700 people). Flyers related to the roadshows were sent to District Health Boards (DHBs), and advertisements of these events were posted on social networking sites (Facebook/Twitter announcements).

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.