

Submission
No 48

**INQUIRY INTO SERVICES PROVIDED OR FUNDED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGEING, DISABILITY AND HOME
CARE**

Organisation: Social Justice and Social Change Research, University of Western
Sydney
Name: A/Professor Rosemary Leonard
Position: Leader
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Projects nearing completion**Social Justice & Social Change Research, University of Western Sydney****Project 1: Active engagement of older people in the community: Mapping and developing the caring networks of older people receiving DADHC**

Chief Investigators: Dr Debbie Horsfall and Associate Professor Rosemary Leonard
The research identifies ways in which caring can contribute to the growth of social capital. This contrasts with the usual assumption that social capital is a resource that can be used to provide care. The ultimate goal is to improve the status of caring as something that can contribute to community not just drain community resources. More specifically the proposed research will

- Qualitatively explore the social networks of older people or carers in DADHC funded home care and activity centres for older people
- Identify examples of ways in which caring contributes to social capital
- Explore with staff and clients in DADHC services their ideas for strategies for NSW.

Project 2: Transformations of Care: Living the consequences of changing public policies in Australia.**Chief Investigator Jane Mears**

The main objective of this research project is to increase our knowledge of formal care provision and to identify promising care policies and practices. Demographic, social and political changes have led to formal community care becoming increasingly important in the lives of older Australians. However, we have little in-depth knowledge about formal care providers. This project will build on work done both in Australia and internationally to explore in depth the impact of social, historical and political changes on the organisation, management and delivery of care and documenting and analysing promising care practices.

Specific aims of this research proposal are to:

1. Explore and analyse the impact of recent social, historical and political changes on the organisation, management and delivery of care across three categories of service provider, state funded and administered agencies, for-profit providers and not-for-profit providers.
2. Collect and analyse detailed in-depth data on the working conditions, the organisation of care and the nature of care provided by paid care workers and care managers.
3. Compare the findings to investigate differences (if any) in the working conditions, organisation of care and the nature of care provided by paid care workers and care managers across the three categories of service provision.
4. Identify promising practices and policies in care management and provision and the conditions which enable and support these promising practices.
5. Compare the findings from this research with findings from research in Canada and Sweden on transformations of care and documentation and analysis of promising practices.