



DAY 1: PLENARY PANEL (2:00 – 3:15) – INNOVATIONS IN AGED CARE AND PROGRAM DELIVERY

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Ms. Lynda O’Grady, Aged Care Financing Authority (Australia)
- Prof. Sarah Harper, The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing (United Kingdom)
- Dr. John Beard, World Health Organization (Switzerland)

ABSTRACT

Providing efficient and effective aged care services is one of the greatest public policy concerns currently facing governments today.

A radical shift in thought, innovation, and action is required in the development of models and modes of care to meet the expectations of future generations of older people. Against the backdrop of globalization and urbanization, country and regional trends in population ageing provide unique opportunities to examine the effectiveness of aged care policy and the applicability of various models of care to countries with younger demographic profiles.

Migration is now an essential, inevitable and beneficial component of the economic and social life of every country and region. With high rates of immigration and of internal migration to urban areas over several decades many countries are now experiencing rapidly ageing ethno-cultural populations. This growth and complexity provides a range of challenges for practitioners and policy makers. The absence of an interface between mainstream and ethno-cultural services has impacted negatively on knowledge sharing and capacity building to prepare the general community, health professionals, care providers and families with cultural competencies to support the cultural diversity of older adults and their families.

Increasing longevity is celebrated but is not without its complexities and compromises – increasing frailty leading to falls and fractures, cognitive deficits often resulting in serious functional changes and a loss of identity, and loneliness leading to depression are but a few of the many realities for older people. The demand for intensive rehabilitation and therapy based services to improve functioning of older people, rather than just maintaining the status quo means increased costs. Older people and their families want greater choice in care options at the same time that governments worldwide are seeking to reduce spending. Accordingly options such as long term care insurance are being considered to enable the expectations of current and future generations of older people to be addressed.

Quality of care represents one of the most fundamental rights for users of health care system with standards and systems differing in general practice from country to country. Gathering further evidence and innovations in care for older people is not just an option, but a responsibility for practitioners and researchers.

In the context of disasters it has been well documented that older people are amongst the most vulnerable and care providers have a significant responsibility to ensure their clients' safety in environmental and man-made disasters. Risks can be minimized with demonstrated planning and sharing of good practice models is a priority.

Experts and leaders in the field of care innovation and evidence based aged care policy will inform and debate some of the most pressing issues of the current and new eras in care to ensure older people are able to age in a society where their care needs are realized, prioritized and met. This panel provides the opportunity to share best practices, learn from those tasked with meeting the challenges of an ageing population and create meaningful global knowledge mobilization networks.

Interested in submitting an abstract and/or registering for the conference, go to the IFA 13th Global Conference on Ageing website at <http://www.ifa2016.org.au>.