

# Grandschools

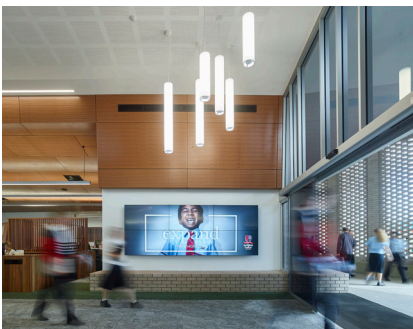
## Intergenerational Learning and Living Communities

A National Health and Medical Research Council supported research project



# About the Project

Historically, aged care and the education of young people have existed at two ends of the social policy spectrum. Now a new model of living and learning is set to turn this traditional thinking on its head.



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## Background

One of the greatest challenges for Australian society is the separation of generations which affects the quality of life for our seniors (social isolation) and engagement of our youth.

Unemployment and inactive lifestyles, in regional and urban areas exacerbate separation levels, contributing to mental health issues and affecting general wellbeing of our whole community. Senior living facilities and education campuses are often designed in a way which maintains isolation and deepens the divide.

This project aims to develop a solution that integrates research into intergenerational campus planning and healthy living and learning programs.

## Introduction

This project is an Australian project federally funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) undertaken by Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australian Catholic University (ACU), Deakin University and Fulton Trotter Architects, in collaboration with several industry partners.

The project acts upon recommendations from the Inquiry into the Quality of Care and Residential Aged Care in Australia (QCRAC, 2018) and will investigate the concept of an intergenerational model for senior living within school campuses.

The project will establish an economic, policy driven 'shared campus facilities and services' approach, which is person centred, health focussed and socially inclusive.


The model intends to be translatable across diverse Australian contexts, from urban realms where land is limited, as well as regionally, where closer engagement between generations will maintain social networks.

The project further responds to urgent national workforce development needs and health training demand in senior living, and provides an integrated model for co-located school based vocational pathways for youth in senior living settings.

Our aim is to create intentional space for co-learning, co-care, co-fitness and co-creation benefiting health, well-being, and continued engagement of residents and students.

The study will research opportunities for youth based vocational pathways in senior living settings, and conversely the integration of senior living and recreation into school settings. The aim is to explore greater economical and efficient usage of land within these shared communities.

The vision is to deepen relationships, connectivity, and understandings between generations. This includes improving inter-cultural understanding and decreasing social isolation for seniors and students alike.



**“At the heart of it is deeper relationships, more connectivity and more understanding between generations.”**

Mark Trotter - Director, Fulton Trotter Architects

Photographer: Scott Burrows ©

## Research Plan

The model focusses upon two research streams; healthy programs; and healthy campus planning.

The model will be incrementally refined over three stages which seek to contextualise the risks, impediments and benefits of the proposal.

The first stage will develop thematic understanding of existing societal, policy, operational, planning and design, and health and wellbeing factors.

This knowledge will then be directly applied to selected small scale case study projects which will examine the complex interrelationships and challenges associated with intergenerational programs and campus planning.

The concluding stage of the research plan will incrementally evaluate, cost and refine the model and develop a decision support tool that can be used by the senior living and education sector, and local and state governments.

## Case Studies

Research and case-study projects through four PhD projects are designed to gather multidisciplinary (health services, planning and design) knowledge to support program development, and design and operation of these facilities. Small case study projects or pilots will be embedded within Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

The case study projects will be drawn from our industry partners as well as others identified early in the project timeline.

## Project PHDs

The proposed structure of PhD projects and their aims are as follows:

**1**

### COOPERATIVE SPACES PROJECT

Design, implement and evaluate intergenerational cooperative programs in creative arts, horticulture/hospitality, IT/media, or fitness, across multiple case study sites. The health and wellbeing benefits of varied levels of student and senior engagement in cooperative programs will be evaluated.

**2**

### YOUTH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Explore the feasibility of school students completing school-based traineeships and other work-based training such as social enterprises (e.g. onsite cafe, IT mentorships, horticultural maintenance), within co-located high school and senior living campuses. This project will identify potential barriers and enablers to social enterprise development within the model.

**3**

### INCLUSIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTS PROJECT

Explore the feasibility of planning and built environment models which integrate, co-situate or connect existing education and senior living environments. Key sites will be identified to understand and inform intergenerational learning and living campus design.

**4**

### DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR INTERGENERATIONAL PLANNING PROJECT

Explore the feasibility of a decision network tool implemented across regulatory policy, campus planning and healthy programs. The project will develop, implement and evaluate a pilot network tool to help inform intergenerational learning and living campus design.



## Chief Investigators

The research project will be coordinated by the following Investigators:

- Professor Robin Drogemuller (QUT)
- Doctor Suzanne Kuys (ACU)
- Associate Professor Gert-Jan Pepping (ACU)
- Professor Paul Sanders (Deakin University)
- Professor Evonne Miller (QUT)
- Doctor Andrea Blake (QUT)
- Doctor Rosamund Harrington (ACU)
- Doctor Tanja Tyvimaa (QUT)
- Ms Marissa Lindquist (QUT)
- Mr Mark Trotter (Fulton Trotter Architects)



Wesley Mission Queensland | Photographer: Phil Hargreaves ©

## Industry Partners

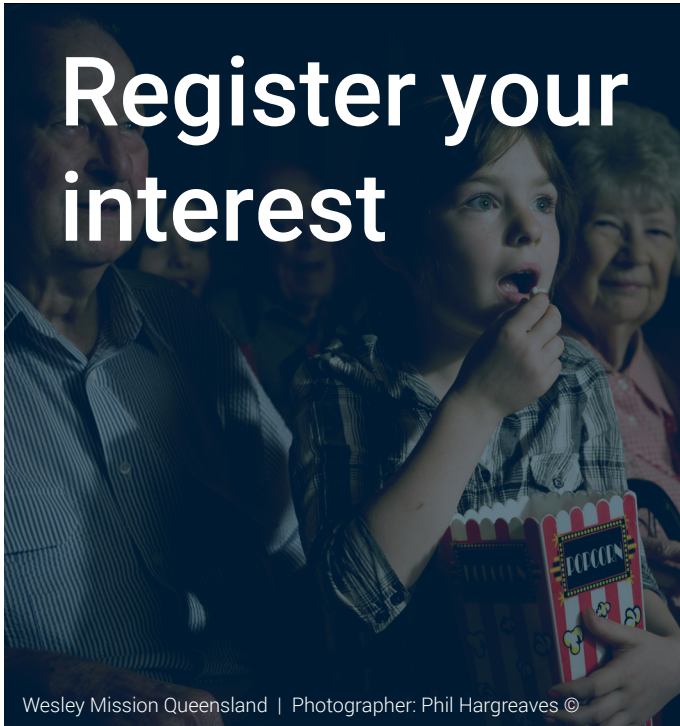
The project has the support and involvement of several industry partners from both design and operation fields, they are:

- Wesley Mission Queensland
- Lutheran Services Queensland
- Redeemer Lutheran College
- Edmund Rice Education Australia
- Learning Environments Australasia Queensland
- Minx Architecture

This is an exciting project which may change our current approach to both schooling and senior living in a way which genuinely brings our generations together.



# Register your interest



Wesley Mission Queensland | Photographer: Phil Hargreaves ©

While case study projects will be developed with our industry partners, we hope to explore the current context over numerous geographic and organisational settings.

If you are interested in contributing information to the project please contact either of our Chief Investigator's listed below to request an EOI.

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## Credits

Text for this brochure is drawn from the NHMRC Ideas Grant proposal co-authored by the chief investigators listed above.