



# Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

FALL 2002

**School of Social Welfare**  
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**Center's Web Site:**

<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/aging>

**Center's Faculty & Staff:**

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The Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services conducts activities to improve services for California's elderly through research, education & collaboration. These activities are made possible through the generous support of the Kleiner Family Foundation and the JM Long Foundation.

## **Issue Highlights...**

- Aged Care Policies in Australia
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Gerontological Training & Education
- New Staff
- Publications

## **Aged and Family Care in Australia: Scharlach's Sabbatical Down Under**

During the Spring 2002 semester, Professor Andrew E. Scharlach was on sabbatical at the University of Melbourne School of Social Work in Victoria, Australia. As a Senior Fullbright Scholar, he conducted an investigation of Australian long-term care policies and programs for disabled elderly persons and their families. Here he summarizes some of his key findings regarding aged and family care in Australia.

With 2.3 million persons age 65 and older out of a total population of 18 million, Australia is experiencing population aging at about the same rate as the United States. Moreover, like the United States, Australia is ethnically diverse, geographically dispersed, and has a strong tradition of individual responsibility. However, unlike the United States, the Australian government has implemented a national approach to community care for its growing elderly population. This national strategy includes three basic components: (1) a basic level of supportive services available to all disabled persons; (2) intensive care packages for persons at risk of residential care; and (3) extensive support for family caregivers.

A centerpiece of the government's Age Care Reform Strategy is the Home and Community Care Program (HACC), funded 60% by the federal government and 40% by the states. The Home and Community Care Program typically provides a few hours a month of supportive services (e.g., laundry, shopping, transportation, meals) for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of age or income. In addition, individuals at risk for residential care can receive more intensive care packages integrated and coordinated by a case manager. Multi-disciplinary Aged Care Assessment Teams determine eligibility for Community Aged Care Packages as well as for residential care.

Family members are considered an integral part of the Australian aged care system, and support for caregivers is one of the three primary goals of the Home and Community Care Program. Every client assessment includes an assessment of the caregiver's need for support and/or respite. Caregiver respite represents 13% of all HACC expenditures. Moreover, overnight respite care in a nursing home or other residential setting represents nearly one-half of all residential care admissions.

Carer Resource Centres in every major city act as a single point of contact for carers seeking information and advice about services. In addition, 82 regional Carer Respite Centres help carers to access and purchase respite care. The government also sponsors a 24-hour National Dementia Behaviour Advisory Service, an Early Stage Dementia Support and Respite Project, and a Carer Training Project.

Financial supports for caregivers include the Carers Payment and the Carers Allowance. The Carer Payment is a means-tested benefit that provides \$180/week (the same as other social security income support payments) to caregivers who

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## Family Caregiver Support Program Update

The Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services continues to work on the implementation and evaluation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). In addition to the two reports already submitted to the California Department of Aging, *Family Caregivers In California: Needs, Interventions And Model Programs* and *California's Grandparents Raising Children: What The Aging Network Needs To Know As It Implements The National Family Caregiver Support Program*, the Center is pleased to announce that 2 more reports were submitted on July 1, 2002. *Major Caregiver Resources in California: An Inventory Analysis* describes the major providers of caregiver support services in California for caregivers of those over the age of 60 and for grandparent caregivers, identifies service gaps and barriers that currently exist, and provides recommendations for improving supports for caregivers through enhancements to California's existing service network. *Local Caregiver Needs Assessment Under California's Family Caregiver Support Program* identifies the processes, methods, and practices by which the AAAs may most effectively and accurately identify the needs of caregivers in each of the AAAs respective Planning and Service Areas.

Currently, the Center is fielding a statewide survey of California caregivers providing assistance to individuals aged 50 or older. This survey is designed not only to characterize caregivers and the impact of caregiving on their lives, but also to capture their current use of support services, satisfaction with services, and reasons for non-use of services. Survey results will include descriptions of the care recipients' characteristics, including their current health status and care requirements. Future analyses will augment our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the caregiver service network in California, key caregiver outcomes, and will include recommendations for program development and future data collection. To further expand upon the information collected through the survey, the Center also will assist in conducting focus groups in identified Planning and Service Areas.

Using information from the four previous tasks, the Center will create a fifth report early next year that will provide an assessment of the strengths and deficiencies of the caregiver services network and discuss implications for the development of statewide policy for family caregivers. We also are beginning work on a pilot project to evaluate the impact of caregiver support programs, including development of necessary data systems. A final report will summarize the research findings and identify implications for improving the effectiveness of local caregiver programs in meeting the needs of caregivers and care receivers.

In September the Center will convene a meeting of key stakeholders and experts to comment on our analyses of the state's existing caregiver support resources and discuss the future direction of caregiver resources in California. ●



Family Caregiver Support Program Research Team (pictured left to right): Wei Li, Kris Hele, Nancy Giunta, Tapashi Bharracharjee, Kelly Tobin-Glazer, Julian Chow, Andrew Scharlach, Kristin Ryan, Steven Williams, Roxanne Kellam, David Coon, Stephanie Whittier, Pat Fox, Sana Chehimi, and Teresa Dal Santo.

## The Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging

The School of Social Welfare is beginning its last year of a 3-year grant funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York designed to increase the numbers of professional social workers trained to serve older adults. The grant focuses on field education training within public sector aging service systems, and consists of a consortium of three academic programs and six practicum sites in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging includes the schools of social work at the University of California at Berkeley, San Francisco State University, and San Jose State University, and the departments of adult and aging services in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties.

A total of 37 students have completed the training in the past two years, and 12 additional students have been accepted into the project this year. The training model consists of assignment to a primary program area within a county department of adult and aging services, generally Adult Protective Services. During the fall semester, students also complete rotations through all of the other aging programs administered by the department, such as the Area Agency on Aging, case management programs including Multipurpose Senior Services Program and In-Home Supportive Services, and the office of the Public Guardian/Conservator. All students receive a stipend averaging \$5,000 for first year students and \$7,000 for second year students. As part of the training, students also attend seminars designed to introduce them to key issues in serving older adults. These have included California's adult and aging service system, the aging process, cognitive impairment and competency determination, mental health in the elderly, and preparation for job-hunting in public sector aging services.

Please visit the Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging website at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/aging/consortium/> for more information about the Consortium and a list of this year's fellows. For additional information, visit <http://www.nyam.org>. ●

## New Student Staff Members

**Jesse Tamplen** is a second-year MSW student who works on the Consortium for Social Work Training Project. Prior to beginning the program, Mr. Tamplen worked as a case manager with elders and as a psychiatric social worker. This past year, he was a Hartford Fellow and an intern with Adult Protective Services in Alameda County. This year, Mr. Tamplen will be interning at the VA Hospital in San Francisco, where he will be working in their skilled nursing facility, palliative care unit, and psychiatric day program. His interests include research, long-term health care policy, and the mental health of older adults. ●



### Advisory Committee

**Lisa Chanoff**, Kleiner Family Foundation

**Jennie Chin Hansen**, Exec. Dir. On Lok Senior Health Services

**Diane Driver**, Coordinator Center on Aging, UC Berkeley

**Roy Earnest**, Foster Grandparent / Senior Companion, San Francisco

**Cecilia Espinola**, Dir., Social Services, Santa Cruz County

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**Robert Sessler**, Dir., Adult & Aging Services Contra Costa Cty

**Charlene Silva**, Dir., Aging & Adult Services, San Mateo County

**Lynda Terry**, Dir., California Department of Aging

## Aged and Family Care in Australia

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are unable to engage in a substantial level of paid work because of their caring responsibilities. The Carer Allowance is an income supplement of \$41/week for anyone who provides care for a disabled individual. About 58% of all primary caregivers receive financial support through a Carers Payment or Carers Allowance.

In all, the Australian government spends more than US\$250 million each year to assist caregivers for elderly persons. In the US, where the elderly population is 15 times as large, this would amount to more than \$3.7 billion, far beyond the \$141 million currently budgeted for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Older Americans Act, Title IIIE). These expenditures have yielded substantial dividends for Australia, including a reduction in residential care admissions and improved supports for older adults and their families. As the United States strives to improve its system of community-based long-term care, it may be worthwhile to consider what can be learned from Australia's Home and Community Care Program. ●

## Publications from the Center

Much of the research conducted through the Center is intended to be policy- and practice- relevant. To make our findings useful to a broad community of professionals, agency staff, and consumers of aging services, we make our publications and findings available on the Center's website. Below we provide a brief listing of the Center's recent publications.

### Advisory Publications

*Care Management & Quality Assurance Under Long Term Care Insurance* (January 2001).

*Aging of California's Baby Boomers* (February 2001).

*Case Management in Long-Term Care Integration: An Overview of Current Programs and Evaluations* (November 2001).

*Family Caregivers in California: Needs, Interventions and Model Programs* (December 2001).

*California's Grandparents Raising Children: What the Aging Network Needs to Know as it Implements the National Family Caregiver Support Program* (December 2001).

*Local Caregiver Needs Assessment Under California's Family Caregiver Support Program* (June 2002).

*Major Caregiver Resources in California: An Inventory Analysis* (June 2002).

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