

# Fab Abs

## Recent Research Abstracts

Vol. 39 - March 2006

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### AGEING

Gardner, Ian L; Browning, Colette; Kendig, Hal. (2005). Accommodation options in later life: retirement village or community living? *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, 24 (4), 188-195.

This article describes a study undertaken to assess retirement villages as an accommodation option for older people by examining the impact on quality of life of moving to a village. The study surveyed groups of people who had moved to a retirement village and a group who had considered the move but decided to remain living in the community. The results showed that while overall satisfaction with life, friendships and social life had increased for the groups who had moved to a retirement village, those who remained in the community reported that their quality of life was the same or worse than it was when they considered the move.

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Giles, Lynne.C; Glonek, Gary. F.V; Luszcz., Mary A; Andrews, Gary R. (2005). Effect of social networks on 10 year survival in very old Australians: The Australian longitudinal study of ageing. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 59(7), 574-9.

The objective of this research was to examine whether social networks with children, relatives, friends and confidants predict survival in older Australians over 10 years after controlling for a range of demographic, health, and lifestyle variables. Participants in the study comprised 1,477 persons aged 70 years and older living in the community and in residential care facilities in Adelaide. After controlling for a range of demographic, health, and lifestyle variables, greater networks with friends were protective against mortality in the 10-year follow up period, although the effects of social networks with children and relatives were not significant with respect to survival. The conclusion drawn from the research is that survival time may be enhanced by strong social networks with friends and confidants.

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Wilson, Leah & Kirby, Neil. (2005). How resident committees function in low-level residential aged care facilities. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, 24 (4), 207-212.

Australian residential aged care facilities (RACF) are legally required to ensure that residents have the opportunity to participate in decision making and control. This article outlines the findings of a study examining factors affecting the functioning of residential committees in 18 South Australian low level RACFs. It found that most committee meetings were informal, irregular and held in unsatisfactory venues. Very few resolved the issues raised by residents. Residents were also dissatisfied with meeting environments, procedures and outcomes.

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