Focussing on aged care

Professors Jeffrey Braithwaite, Johanna Westbrook and Enrico Coiera from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) welcome the call for a Royal Commission into Aged Care announced by the Prime Minister Scott Morrison. They counsel that evidence-based research is the key to achieving improved outcomes for the most vulnerable in our society.

AIHI leads the new NHMRC CareTrack Aged Project which addresses the need to not only assess the quality of care delivered in residential aged care facilities but also the quality of life of residents.

In addition, Professor Johanna Westbrook, Professor Andrew Georgiou and Dr Mikaela Jorgensen, from the Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research at AIHI, have a long track record of research highlighting areas for improvement in the system and strategies to elevate safety and wellbeing for older Australians. Recent publications include:

- Leveraging new information technology to monitor medicine use in 71 residential aged care facilities: variation in polypharmacy and antipsychotic use
- Longitudinal variation in pressure injury incidence among long-term aged care facilities
- Issues Brief, examining home care reforms, by Dr Mikaela Jorgensen, the inaugural Jeff Cheverton Memorial Scholar, published by the Deeble Institute for Health Policy research
- Dr Joyce Siette was featured in Australian Ageing Agenda: ‘Talking about social engagement pays off’

The terms of reference for the Royal Commission will be determined in consultation with the community who are invited to have their say on the Australian Department of Health’s website at https://consultations.health.gov.au/
AI in healthcare

Robots as GPs, smart houses and better healthcare. Professor Enrico Coiera, Director of the Centre for Health Informatics (CHI) at AIHI and a leading international expert on health informatics, has spoken to The Australian and MQ Lighthouse on the opportunity for Artificial Intelligence (AI) to transform healthcare.

Professor Coiera cautioned that some of the Medical Research Future Fund’s $240 million for Frontier Science on AI must be spent on healthcare. Researchers, policy makers and industry met recently for a workshop hosted by CHI to explore these opportunities.

Predicting future healthcare

What are the main issues facing health systems of the future? We are looking forward to discussing this and more at the IHF 42nd World Hospitals Congress in Brisbane, 10-12 October, including the final plenary session by Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite on ‘Healthcare Systems: Future Predictions for Global Care. Towards progress, avoiding pitfalls and achieving sustainability’. This session will draw on Professor Braithwaite’s global perspective and latest book, Healthcare Systems: Future Predictions for Global Care.

Seeking crowd-wisdom

Tell us what you know. In a first, AIHI and the NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability will invite attendees at the IHF 42nd World Hospitals Congress to participate in a crowd-wisdom survey in collaboration with the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and the International Hospital Federation. We are producing a snapshot of the latest thinking, know-how and exemplars for sustainable healthcare system performance. If you are attending the conference, you will have already received a link to the survey which is open now.

Unfreezing the healthcare system
Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite has called for a change in perspective on patient safety in order to address the stubborn statistic that 10% of patients admitted to Australian hospitals experience a form of medical error or harm.

“Healthcare is frozen, statistically, in time,” says Professor Braithwaite who has been interviewed for MQ Lighthouse and featured in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Publications of interest
Visit our website for featured research including:

- Assessing the quality of the management of tonsillitis among Australian children: A population-based sample survey
- White Paper by Professor Frances Rapport et al Qualitative Research In Healthcare – Modern Methods, Clear Translation

Research centres
Visit our NHMRC research centres for updates.

- NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability
- NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Implementation Science in Oncology
- NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Digital Health

In the media
AliHi is regularly asked to provide comment and submit opinion pieces for media. Here’s a selection of recent articles:

- The Sydney Morning Herald featured an opinion piece by Professor Jeffery Braithwaite titled ‘Where the real solutions to hospital safety lie’
- ABC Radio National’s Best Practice interviewed Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite on, ‘The goldilocks effect: the rhythms and pace of hospital life’. Listen to the interview here
Geraldine Doogue spoke with Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite on ABC Radio National Saturday Extra about health reform around the world based on his book Health Systems Improvement Across the Globe: Success stories from 60 countries.

Events

AIHI Seminar Series

Tuesday 16 October 2018, Sydney

Public AIHI Seminar Series with Professor Les White - The rights of children in healthcare.

Webinar

Wednesday 17 October 2018, online

A webinar for Public Health Networks on ‘Designing cost effective primary health services’

Delivering Resilient Health Care: The 2018 Masterclass

Friday 7 December 2018, Sydney

Unique one-day masterclass at AIHI with leading international experts in the field of patient safety. A full program and registration is available.

New study and job opportunities

New Fellowship Program Manager with AIHI

New PhD positions with AIHI

Apply here for the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research Scholarship Program

Conference recognition

- 32nd British Human Computer Interaction conference - Dr Baki Kocaballi accepted Best Paper at Conference on behalf of co-authors Dr Lilliana Laranjo and Professor Enrico Coiera - ‘Measuring user experience in conversational interfaces: a comparison of six questionnaires’.
Australian Health Informatics Conference - Associate Professor Melissa Baysari received the Branko Cesnik Award for Best Academic and Scientific Paper - *Usability of Reports Generated by a Computerised Dose Prediction Software*. Two of the other finalists were AIHI’s Dr Ling Li and Dr Valentina Lichtner. In addition, Dr Terry Hannan, a Visiting Fellow with the Centre for Health Informatics at AIHI, took out the Jon Hilton Award for excellence in primary care informatics.