



## ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well

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**Hal Kendig, MPI, PhD, FASSA**

Research Professor of Ageing and Health  
National Convenor, ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: IRCHAL and the annual International Conferences on Healthy Ageing and Longevity**

This letter is written in support of the International Research Centre on Healthy Ageing and Longevity (IRCHAL). I know very well the IRCHAL Centre and its co-directors John and Noah Weller. I contributed to the last IRCHAL Conference in Brisbane last year and will do so again to the conference in Melbourne in October. I serve on the IRCHAL International Advisory Council and was pleased to contribute to its comprehensive research agenda.

IRCHAL is making a very valuable contribution to the development of international research on the determinants of healthy ageing and the application of this knowledge to improvements in the health and longevity of the baby-boomer generation and older people. IRCHAL has the strong involvement of multi-disciplinary researchers in ageing of the highest international standing and it has their enthusiastic support and commitment. IRCHAL is a high point in bringing international expertise to Australia, involving Australian researchers in leading international research, and increasing communication on healthy ageing between the research, philanthropic, professional and government sectors in Australia.

I strongly recommend the annual IRCHAL Conference to Australian researchers and research students, as well as medical and allied healthcare practitioners and students who wish to know of the 'leading edge' of international research on healthy ageing. The 2005 IRCHAL conference presented highpoints in international science in a way that intelligent people of a variety of disciplines could understand and make sense of it. The program represented the full range of studies of ageing from the most basic cellular biology through to the society, social and government programmes, and it had strong involvement of older people and their representatives as well as the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. It was a splendid effort, and I am strongly recommending the IRCHAL conference to researchers, practitioners, educators, policy makers, students and others concerned with healthy ageing.

IRCHAL also provides an outstanding opportunity to translate and disseminate findings from leading science to improve actions in health care practice, health promotion, and self help and advocacy by older people themselves. IRCHAL is particularly effective in media publicity bringing research-based science to broader public audiences.

The Management Committee of our ARC-NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well recognises the value of IRCHAL and we have agreed to collaborate with them. Professor Colette Browning – Professor of Healthy Ageing at Monash University and Convenor of our Network Healthy Ageing theme – is active in the 2006 Conference planning and I will present a keynote address. After the October Conference, IRCHAL and our Research Network will jointly convene a high level workshop to develop research collaborations on bio-psycho-social determinants of healthy ageing and longevity. The Workshop aims to stimulate ongoing and deep collaboration between the best of Australian researchers and international IRCHAL members.

As a Research Professor, I particularly commend any efforts that can be made to support the participation of Australian health and medical students, postgraduate research students and other early careers researchers in the IRCHAL conference. IRCHAL provides Australia's best opportunity for students to hear directly from leading international researchers in multi-disciplinary ageing research from the core biomedical and related sciences in Europe, North America and Asia. The Conference allows for informal discussions between the international 'greats' and the next generation of emerging researchers who can benefit greatly from their inspiration and advice. I support strongly any efforts that can be made to enable more Australian health and medical students, postgraduate research students and early career researchers to participate in IRCHAL.

In summary, IRCHAL and its conference and other activities are making a very valuable contribution to Australian and international research on healthy ageing and longevity. I am happy to support IRCHAL and its Directors without reservation. I commend IRCHAL to others who wish to join us in building and applying this knowledge base which is vital to the future of Australia and an ageing world.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hal Kendig', written in a cursive style.

Professor Hal Kendig