

Country/region of primary focus: **Asia Pacific**

Title: **Current development of age-friendly primary health care for older people**

Names of authors, position and institutional affiliation, email address:

**Associate Professor Irene Blackberry**  
**Director, John Richards Initiative**  
**College of Science, Health and Engineering, La Trobe University**  
**PO Box 821, Wodonga 3689 Australia**  
[i.blackberry@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:i.blackberry@latrobe.edu.au)

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Across the Asia Pacific region, despite an overall trend of longevity, there is a variation in the life expectancy of population. Both non-modifiable factors such as genetics or gender and modifiable factors such as environment, socio-economic, chronic diseases contribute to this variation. As the population is ageing rapidly, there has been much interests in the development and uptake of age-friendly communities. The emphasis of age-friendly communities is to support older people to maintain their health, quality of life and independent living in the communities. A key element to maintain health and wellbeing is timely and appropriate access to health services including community-based preventive activities, primary health and acute health services.

Primary health care is the first point of care for people to access health care. Primary health care professionals play an important role in delivering preventive health care. Primary health care can also act as a gatekeeper for older people to access specialist care. The epidemic of ageing population coupled with chronic diseases, poses a huge burden for the health system. In 2008, the World Health Organization further developed the age-friendly concept and produced a toolkit for age-friendly primary health care services. The toolkit aims to *“improve the primary health care response for older persons; sensitize and educate primary health care workers about the specific needs of their older clients; provide primary care health workers with a set of tools/instruments to assess older people's health; raise awareness among primary care health workers of the accumulation of minor/major disabilities experienced by older people; provide guidance on how to make primary health care management procedures more responsive to the needs of older people's needs; and offer direction on how to do environmental audits to test primary health care centres for their age-friendliness”*.

This abstract will revisit the WHO age-friendly primary health care concept; examine evidence on the uptake of age-friendly primary health care or services across Asia Pacific region; identify emerging or other innovative models of care to enhance health service for older people at different stages of their life course; and discuss the readiness of current workforce including aged care workforce in the delivery of patient-centred care.