



# Registry of Older South Australians (ROSA)

## What is the challenge?

In 2016, 15% (3.4 million) of Australians were over 65 years old and this proportion is expected to increase to 19% by 2031. Currently those over 65 years old account for 41% of the hospitalisations in the country, 48% of the days spent in hospital, and they use ambulance services at much higher rates than younger people. This high demand on both the aged care and health sectors will continue to increase with our ageing population resulting in an urgent need to better coordinate and integrate information about people receiving aged care services, so that decision-making and outcomes achieve quality, coordinated, efficient, innovative and age-friendly services and practices.

## How will this project translate research into action?

The Registry of Older South Australians (ROSA) is a powerful cross-sectoral (including aged care and health care) data platform which is currently working on multiple projects. It was developed by the Healthy Ageing Research Consortium, which is coordinated under the auspices of the SA Academic Health Science and Translation Centre and funded by the Premier's Research and Industry Fund in South Australia.

ROSA is an ambitious undertaking that produces evidence to guide decision-making. ROSA's model leverages existing information, bringing together diverse datasets collected by different organisations throughout the country, to provide us with a whole picture of the ageing pathway.

ROSA offers a unique data collection with analytic capability to guide evidence-driven decision making for quality, coordinated, efficient and age-friendly services and practices. This includes an Historical National Cohort (1997-2016, >2.9million people), which consists of the entire population of people who accessed government subsidised aged care services in Australia and these individuals' health services utilisation and mortality information, and a Prospective Cohort (2018-onwards), containing more detailed information on 16,000/year individuals accessing aged care services after aged care eligibility assessments ('ACATs') in South Australia.

ROSA includes data linked from individuals' Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), National Death Index (NDI), hospitalisation/emergency rooms visits, and ambulance services.

Like other Australian Clinical Quality Registries, ROSA was designed to monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of care over time, to identify variance and advise on benchmarking. ROSA has taken the initiative to develop an "Outcome Monitoring System" of quality and safety indicators for aged care providers and facilities. Developed from the synthesis of high-level evidence and recommendations by established Australian or international reporting programs and initiatives, the ROSA system monitors a number of indicators, including:

- General safety and quality indicators, including mortality, unplanned/preventable hospitalisation, emergency room encounters, general practitioners' visits, medical specialist visits, pressure ulcers, weight loss/malnutrition, falls and fractures, polypharmacy.
- Disease specific safety and quality indicators, including the use of antipsychotics in people with dementia, use of cholinesterase-inhibitors or memantine in people with Alzheimer's disease, antimicrobial prescriptions for infection, and chronic opioid use for pain.

Importantly, ROSA has the necessary analytical expertise to conduct appropriate and careful analysis of the data, including high-level statistical expertise to account for many aspects not taken into consideration within reporting by government institutions.

## What was the impact?

ROSA is a resource that allows evidence-driven decision-making to improve the lives of all Australians accessing aged care services. Like other Australian Clinical Quality Registries, ROSA was designed to monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of care over time, to identify variance and advise on best practices. In 2018 the Prospective arm of ROSA was established and implemented state-wide. Additionally, the ROSA team undertook a number of projects using the Historical National ROSA dataset, making contributions to the understanding of:

- 1) the effect of wait time for home care services on the health of older Australians,
- 2) the prevalence of dementia in the aged care population and its effect on mortality, and
- 3) the increasing pervasiveness of pain in this population.

These contributions showcase the unique coverage and ability ROSA has to deliver evidence about this understudied and vulnerable population.

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