The utility of Action Research to support the development of Dementia Friendly Communities

Lyn Phillipson  
*University of Wollongong, lphillip@uow.edu.au*

Christopher R. Brennan-Horley  
*University of Wollongong, chrisbh@uow.edu.au*

Richard Fleming  
*University of Wollongong, rfhleming@uow.edu.au*

Danika Hall  
*University of Wollongong, danika@uow.edu.au*

Ellen Skladzien  
*Alzheimer's Australia Inc, Ellen.Skladzien@alzheimers.org.au*

See next page for additional authors
The utility of Action Research to support the development of Dementia Friendly Communities

Abstract
Abstract presented at the 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, 15 - 18 April 2015, Perth, Australia

Keywords
communities, research, friendly, utility, action, dementia, development, support

Disciplines
Education | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Publication Details

Authors
Lyn Phillipson, Christopher R. Brennan-Horley, Richard Fleming, Danika Hall, Ellen Skladzien, Kate Swaffer, and Nick Guggisberg

This conference paper is available at Research Online: https://ro.uow.edu.au/sspapers/1528
P006

**Topic: Developing Dementia Friendly Communities**

**THE UTILITY OF ACTION RESEARCH TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

Lyn Phillipson 1 2, Chris Brennan-Horley 3, Richard Fleming 1, Danika Hall 1, Ellen Skladzien 4, Kate Swaffer 5, Nick Guggisberg 6 on behalf of Kiama Municipal Council and UOW Global Challenges Grant Team

1Centre for Health Initiatives, 2School of Health and Society, Faculty of Social Sciences, 3Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER), 4School of Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, 5Policy and Programs, Alzheimer’s Australia, Canberra, 6Kiama Municipal Council, Kiama, Australia

**Objectives:** This paper explores the utility of an Action-Research program to inform the development of Dementia Friendly Communities. The ‘location-based’ research, undertaken in a single geographical community in NSW (Australia) engaged people with dementia and their carers in a series of interviews which included a walk-around their home environments and the mapping of friendly and unfriendly places in their local community. Other research activities included the surveying of business and community members by mail, online and intercept methods. Together, this research was utilised to build an evidence-base to guide the actions of a local dementia alliance to support the development of an action plan to create a more ‘Dementia Friendly’ community. The features of this model, the challenges and the lessons learned through the adoption of an Action-Research approach are detailed within this paper. The implications for policies and practices to support the development of Dementia Friendly Communities are also discussed.

**Disclosure of Interest:** L. Phillipson: None Declared, C. Brennan-Horley: None Declared, R. Fleming: None Declared, D. Hall: None Declared, E. Skladzien Conflict with: Alzheimer’s Australia, K. Swaffer Conflict with: Kate is a member of the SPC Committee and the Abstract Selection Panel, N. Guggisberg: None Declared

**Keywords:** action research, dementia-friendly, models