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ARC Funds Study to Assess Usage And Costs Of Long Term Aged Care

The Australian Research Council will fund the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) to conduct a cutting-edge project examining the policy implications for Australia and other countries worldwide where rapidly ageing populations are increasing demand for long term care (LTC).

With 400 million people predicted to be aged 60+ by 2050, the challenges facing China are unprecedented. There is urgent pressure to identify the needs, and types, of care required by older people who are living longer and are not a homogeneous group.

CEPAR researchers will collaborate with Zhejiang University's Institute for Population and Development Studies, to analyse a unique data set which continuously tracks the LTC health issues and treatments of Chinese residents.

"Accessing real-time data will help develop new methodologies to improve understanding of LTC usage and cost projections, delivering a more accurate assessment of alternative funding and provision approaches," said CEPAR Director Professor John Piggott.

"Providing the evidence base needed for policy and industry planning in China, and increasing understanding of the prevalence of the major disabilities and diseases which lead to LTC will advance global knowledge of how to deal with the challenge of LTC needs and costs."

This knowledge will be linked with international experience to quantify the impacts of alternative policy structures (private/public provision, and the role of LTC insurance).

"Ultimately this research project will expand understanding of LTC and ways to finance it, contribute to national capacity building by promoting population health and wellbeing, and help us to better grasp one of the major social changes underway in our region," he said.

Long-term care financing and policy: Insights from a pilot program in China is funded for two years by an ARC Linkage Project.

About CEPAR: CEPAR is a unique, independent, ARC-funded research centre bringing together academia, government and industry to address one of the major social challenges of the twenty first century. It is based at University of New South Wales, with nodes at the Australian National University and the University of Sydney.

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