

Shaping the future of ageing in Australia: NSSN Ageing Grand Challenge Forum

The *NSW Smart Sensing Network Ageing Grand Challenge Forum* takes place from 9:00am to 6:00pm on Thursday 18 February 2021. The event brings together researchers with government and industry stakeholders to collaboratively devise smart sensing solutions that will shape the future of ageing in Australia.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Gabrielle Upton MP opens the event.

NSSN [MedTech Theme Leader Jane Evans](#) said the Forum provides an excellent opportunity to spark new conversations towards a more systemic approach to developing industry-led R&D collaborations to deliver safe, innovative, and scalable solutions for a rapidly ageing population.

“Our social safety net is fraying and this calls for an informed, well co-ordinated and empathetic policy response,” said Ms Evans.

“The outcomes of the ageing forum will promote healthier ageing and create a stronger economy with newly manufactured integrated products that are connected to healthcare platforms and services.

“It is critical to provide support and enable the elderly to navigate a complex web of services before their capacity to do so is challenged.”

The one-day event is delivered in two sessions. The morning session includes two keynote presentations and three panel discussions featuring expert speakers from Johnson & Johnson, Telstra Health, Siemens Healthcare, Wellysis Corp/Samsung, MTAA, MTP Connect, NSW Ministry of Health, Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation, Tunstall Health, CSIRO, Cicada Innovations, The University of Sydney Charles Perkins Centre and UNSW.



Each panel consists of speakers from academia, industry and government who discuss the challenges of delivering services to the older population and explore where technological innovation can lead to better health outcomes.

In the afternoon, the experts come together in a “think tank” style activity to devise practical, innovative and scalable solutions to challenges introduced in the morning session.

“The aim is to develop advanced solutions to support ageing in a safe and secure environment while positioning Australia as a leader in developing the smart infrastructure that will shape the future of ageing,” said Ms Evans.

Research and commercialisation into healthier ageing have many benefits such as creating new jobs within the local manufacturing industry and improving the management of chronic diseases and preventative healthcare Ms Evans said.

“The NSW Smart Sensing Network will be able to provide industry and government partners with research expertise, preclinical R&D, clinical development, and potentially market access,” added Ms Evans.

“We are willing to coordinate and take calculated risks to apply new tools, crucial insights and better governance to ensure more Australians can age with dignity, safely and independently.”

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