




The Potential of New Technologies for Linking Rural Older People to Community

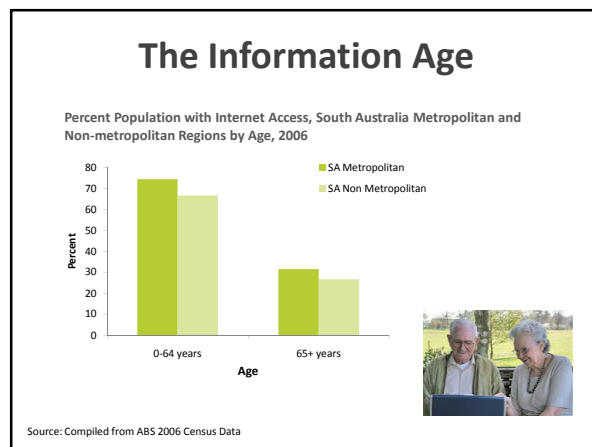
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Project Outline

The 'Linking Rural Older People to Community through Technology' project aims to improve access and connection to the wider community for older Australians in rural and remote locations.



An Ageing Society

	Australia	South Australia	Murray Lands
Age	% as a proportion of the total population		
55+ years	24.4	27.1	29.2
65+ years	13.3	15.4	16.3
80+ years	3.6	4.5	4.3

Source: (ABS 2006)

Project Timeline

Project Phases	Outline	Timeline
Phase One	Two Community Surveys Literature Review Two Preliminary Reports	July 2009 – April 2010
Phase Two	Community Mapping Participant Interviews GIS Modelling	April 2010 – Nov. 2010
Phase Three	Pilot Study – Community Members	Jan. 2011 – July 2011
Phase Four	Analysis of Data Summary Report	Sept. 2011 – Dec. 2011
Phase Five	Pilot Study – Service Providers Final Report	Sept. 2011 – August 2012

The Murray Lands Study Region

- 48,186 square km
- 12 SLAs
- Regional City of Murray Bridge

2 Study Populations:

- People Aged 55+
- Service Providers

Spatial Sampling

- 4 Sampling Regions, Based on CDs
- 2006 Census Population Data used to Determine Sampling
- Surveys Distributed through Service Organisations and Community Groups

Survey Results: Population Overview

- Median age is 75 years

Age	% total
55 – 64	16.1
65 - 79	50.5
80+	33.2

- Females 63.3% and Males 35.9%
- Living Alone 44.8% , Living with Partner 50.7%
- 86.4% Australian born

Survey Results: Community Connections

- 87% of respondents were satisfied with their current level of community involvement
- 86% of those surveyed had family they maintain contact with but...
- 61% of respondents have friends living nearby
- 50% have regular contact with their neighbours

Comfort Levels Using Various Technologies

Source: Rural Older People – Community Member Survey 2010

Attitudes to New Technologies

Source: Rural Older People – Community Member Survey 2010

Community Mapping

- Mapping survey data, census data, and community information.
- Face-to-face interview with 200 survey participants.
- Interviews concentrated on social network ties, any barriers to community connections and future residential decisions
- Are new technologies used to keep any network ties?



Where to next...

Pilot 1 with older people using iPads™ and laptops:

- Up to 60 participants in 4 groups
- Pre and Post-test measures
- Regular meetings over 6 months
- Informal self-directed learning approach
- Follow-up post-test measures 6 months after end of pilot

Pilot 2 project with Community Aged Care Service Providers using iPhones™

