



SCIENCE AND  
INDUSTRY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND



# Generation STEM Community Partnerships Program

## Campbelltown local scenario

### Ageing

Campbelltown's aging population will be an asset, providing a wealth of skills, knowledge, wisdom and mentorship. However, this also presents challenges, such as a widening retirement savings gap and rapidly escalating healthcare expenditure.

In Campbelltown, the last census (2016) reported that 30.2% of the population is aged 50 – 85 years. From 2011 to 2016, Campbelltown's population increased by 11,044 people (7.6%) with the greatest change in the group aged 50 to 59, the older workers and pre-retirees.<sup>1</sup> This increasing trend is expected to continue.

Council will be promoting healthy living, social support, working and learning, keeping people in their house for longer and developing infrastructure and transport.<sup>2</sup>

Health issues will also affect quality of life for the elderly. Some of the conditions to be considered include dementia, depression, osteoporosis, arthritis and diabetes. Each condition will affect people differently and require specific tools and services. For example, dementia is a disorder that causes a permanent decline in brain function, affecting a person's ability to think, remember and can lead to personality changes. Each person responds differently to the disease, but common symptoms include emotional over-reaction, hoarding and repetitive behaviour. This confusion may lead them to wandering and getting lost, being anxious and displaying depression. It can be difficult for family and friends to support and care for those as they age.

This will change people's lifestyles, the services they demand and the structure of the labour force. For people with dementia, the path to retirement can be quite different and this needs to be considered for future planning. People with dementia are also more likely to have physical illnesses left untreated and therefore put a greater stress on the local health care system. Campbelltown Council and Community organisations will have the challenge to ensure they provide the relevant services and activities to cater for this aging population.



Photos courtesy of Campbelltown Council

<sup>1</sup> NSW Aging Strategy [https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/382829/NSW\\_Ageing\\_Strategy\\_2016-2020.pdf](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/382829/NSW_Ageing_Strategy_2016-2020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Campbelltown Council <https://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/communityserviceprograms/peoplewithdisabilityresources/ageingstrategy.pdf>

## Your task

Your task is to use the information above, and resources provided below as a start to identify a local problem and design a STEM-focused solution.

(Question, Design, Explore, Communicate)

## Resources

### CSIRO research

Living at home longer: <https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/BF/Areas/Digital-health/Improving-access/Smarter-safer-homes?ref=/CSIRO/Website/Research/Health/Digital-health/Smarter-safer-homes>

### Reports

Campbelltown Council: <https://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/communityserviceprograms/peoplewithdisabilityresources/ageingstrategy.pdf>

<https://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/councilcouncillors/ipr/communitystrategicplan20132023.pdf>

### Articles

- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016:  
[http://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA11500](http://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA11500)
- NSW Aging Strategy 2016-2020:  
[https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/382829/NSW\\_Ageing\\_Strategy\\_2016-2020.pdf](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/382829/NSW_Ageing_Strategy_2016-2020.pdf)
- Australian Government Productivity Commission On Ageing Australia: Preparing for the Future:  
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/completed/ageing-australia>
- The NSW Office of Preventive Health:  
[http://www.preventivehealth.net.au/uploads/2/3/5/3/23537344/nsw\\_office\\_preventive\\_health\\_sixth\\_year\\_in\\_review\\_2018.pdf](http://www.preventivehealth.net.au/uploads/2/3/5/3/23537344/nsw_office_preventive_health_sixth_year_in_review_2018.pdf)
- Dementia Fact sheet: <https://www.dementia.org.au/resources/help-sheets>
- Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/2012/2012-nov/people-with-dementia-in-nsw-more-than-twice-as-lik>
- The Age article:  
<https://www.theage.com.au/education/the-economics-of-an-ageing-population-20150316-1m0g4a.html>  
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/the-economics-of-an-ageing-population-20150316-1m0g4a.html>