

10. Older People Study – Matthew Carroll

The aim of this component of the study will be to assess the impact of the smoke event on older people, focusing particularly on a review of the policy decisions made with respect to older people during the event.

The objective is to inform best practice for future emergency events.

This work will be completed by August 2016.

10.1 Methods

Focus groups with local community members:

- Older people in a residential aged care facility
- General community group of older people
- Family and carers of older

First session for older people planned for next Thursday 20 August with more sessions in September and October – see sign up sheet.

Interviews with key stakeholders:

At least 10 interviews will be held with key stakeholders involved in supporting older people during the smoke event, including council, health department, community health, U3A, Neighbourhood house, carers association and multicultural service.



10.2 Key questions

- What concerns do people have about the health and wellbeing impacts of the mine fire on older people?
- Was the information provided to older people and their carers sufficient?
- What strategies did older people use to deal with the smoke impacts?
- Are there ways that services could be improved to better support older people in future emergency events?