



BUILDING
A HEALTHY
AUSTRALIA

AN NHMRC IDEAS GRANT

INITIATIVES INNOVATING CREATIVE
HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

An Intergenerational Learning and Living Community Model for Health Senior Living and School Communities in Pomona NHMRC GrandSchools Project



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY



PROGRAM

01 9:45 – 10:00
Agenda & Welcome to Country

02 10:00 – 10:15
Keynote speakers

03 10:15 – 10:40
NHMRC Project and Case Studies

04 10:40 – 10:50
Contestable Proposal

05 10:40 – 10:50
Contestable Proposal

06 10:50 – 11:05
Community Proponents

07 11:05 – 11:25
Coffee and Tea Break

08 11:25 – 12:25
Session 1

09 12:25 – 13:00
Lunch break

10 13:00 – 14:10
Session 2

11 14:10 – 14:50
Community Square: Word Café

12 14:50 – 15:00
Bringing it all together

2025

WHO IS HERE?

Government and Council

Sandy Bolton, Independent Member of Parliament for Noosa

Frank Wilkie, Mayor of Noosa Shire

Kim Rawlings, Direct of Strategy and Environment, Noosa Council

Michelle Tucker, Principal Strategic Planner, Noosa Council

Rowena Skinner, Principal Strategic Planner, Noosa Council

Not-for-Profit

Susan Schiotz, Coordinator Community Development, Pomona & District
Community House (PCH)

Dale Murray, Executive Director Education, Life Without Barriers (LWB)

Maggie Shambrook, Founding Member, Housing Older Women (HOW)

Lynette Loffel, Founding Member, Housing Older Women (HOW)

Stephen Hilditch, President Meals on Wheels (Pomona)

Industry

Katerina Dracopoulos, Director, Fulton Trotter Architects (Industry Partner)

Vanessa Bennett, Managing Director, C Change (Industry Consultant)

John Byrne, Principal, Byrne Urban Design (Industry Consultant)

WHO IS HERE?

Community

Uncle Mic (Douglas Michael), Kabi Kabi First Nations

Brian O'Connor, Pomona resident

Lorraine Browne, Educator

Jenny Blagdon, Lifestyle Medicine Practitioner, Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine

Dawn Michel, Volunteer (GrOW, Nourish, Waves of Wellness, Raise Foundation)

Ebony Sloots, Architect

GrandSchools' Chief Investigators

Professor Robin Drogemuller, Queensland University of Technology

Associate Professor Rosamund Harrington, Australian Catholic University

Professor Gert-Jan Pepping, Australian Catholic University

Dr Mark Limb, Queensland University of Technology

Associate Professor Marissa Lindquist, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Andrea Blake, Queensland University of Technology



WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Uncle Mic, Kabi Kabi First Nations

15 mins.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sandy Bolton MP

Independent Member of Parliament for Noosa

10 mins.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mayor Frank Wilkie
Noosa Shire Council

5 mins.

A grayscale background image showing a group of people, including a woman on the left and a man on the right, working in a garden. The woman is holding a plant, and the man is using a tool. The scene is outdoors with a building in the background.

NMHRC IDEAS PROJECT

Professor Robin Drogemuller
Lead Chief Investigator
Queensland University of Technology

5 mins.

A grayscale background image showing a group of people in a meeting or workshop setting. Some individuals are standing and looking at a screen, while others are seated. The image is slightly blurred and serves as a backdrop for the text.

NHMRC IDEAS GRANT INITIATIVES INNOVATING CREATIVE HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH 2020-2026

Criteria	
Scientific quality	Project uses case studies, community engagement and co-design workshops to investigate models and decision support tools
Innovation and creativity	Intergenerational learning and living is an emerging approach in Australia, blending affordable housing solutions with education innovation with community-led models
Capability	Leading academics with strong track records in built environment, health sciences, economics and psychology
Significance	It address three critical national issues for wide scale impact: housing affordability, aging population, workforce skills training



Hannah Forbes

1

COOPERATIVE SPACES PROJECT

Explore the impact of individual, environment, and task constraints on health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals participating in intergenerational programs. Evaluate intergenerational programs in creative arts, horticulture/ hospitality, IT/media, or fitness, across multiple case study sites, to understand youth and older adult's thoughts, perspectives, experiences and engagement.



Sarah Aita

4

FEASIBILITY OF INTERGENERATIONAL SPACES PROJECT

Identify the feasibility framework for establishing intergenerational living and learning spaces in Australia, with a focus on economic potential and equitable policy and planning. The project will develop and evaluate intergenerational living models to help inform intergenerational learning and living campus design.



Mizan Ahmad

2

YOUTH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Explore options to overcome social segregation through intergenerational programs for youth and seniors. Examine change in attitudes in individuals participating in intergenerational program, including personality, motivation and cultural factors. Identify potential enterprise avenues that can be considered to help sustain this social initiative.



Alice Kulbat

5

INTERGENERATIONAL PEDAGOGIES AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Does intentionally bringing together older adults and secondary students on the same learning campus, undertaking joint activities, improve learning, personal and social outcomes for participant? What environments foster this?



Wanjiru Karanja

3

INCLUSIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTS PROJECT

Explore the feasibility of planning and built environment models which integrate, co-situate or connect existing education and senior living environments. Key sites will be identified to understand and inform intergenerational learning and living campus design.



Nehchal Narula

6

PLACE MAKING INTERGENERATIONAL CAMPUSES FOR SENIORS AND TEENAGERS

Investigating the role of place making in the design of intergenerational living and learning campuses for seniors and teenagers. The project will develop an integrated theoretical-conceptual approach(s) to investigate intergenerational living and learning campuses for seniors and teenagers.



Intergenerational Case studies

Associate Professor Rosamund Harrington

Chief Investigator

Australian Catholic University (ACU)

20 mins.



Co-design Workshop

Council of The Aging (COTA)

Senior's month

COTA is a registered charity that operates as part of a federation of COTAs across Australia. The organisation advocates for the rights and well-being of older Australians, promoting the idea that aging is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence.

Typologies

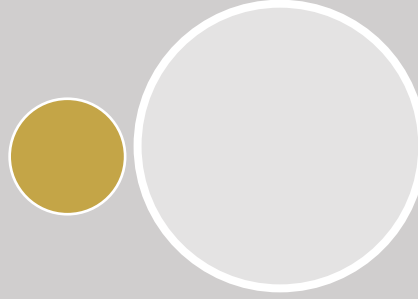
Shared, adjacent and co-located site arrangements that support intergenerational living and learning environments between schools and senior living.

Shared site

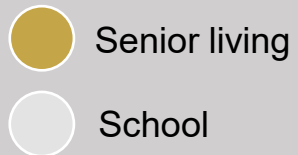
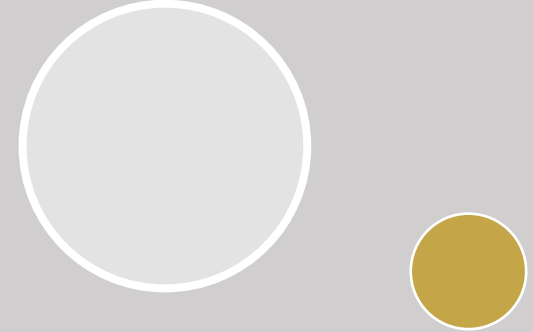


*includes vertical

Adjacent site

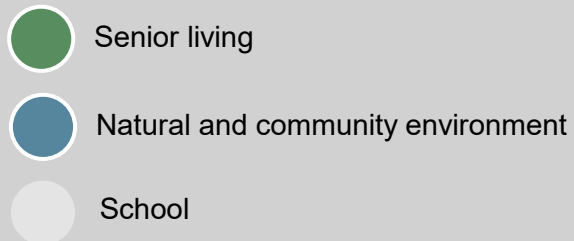
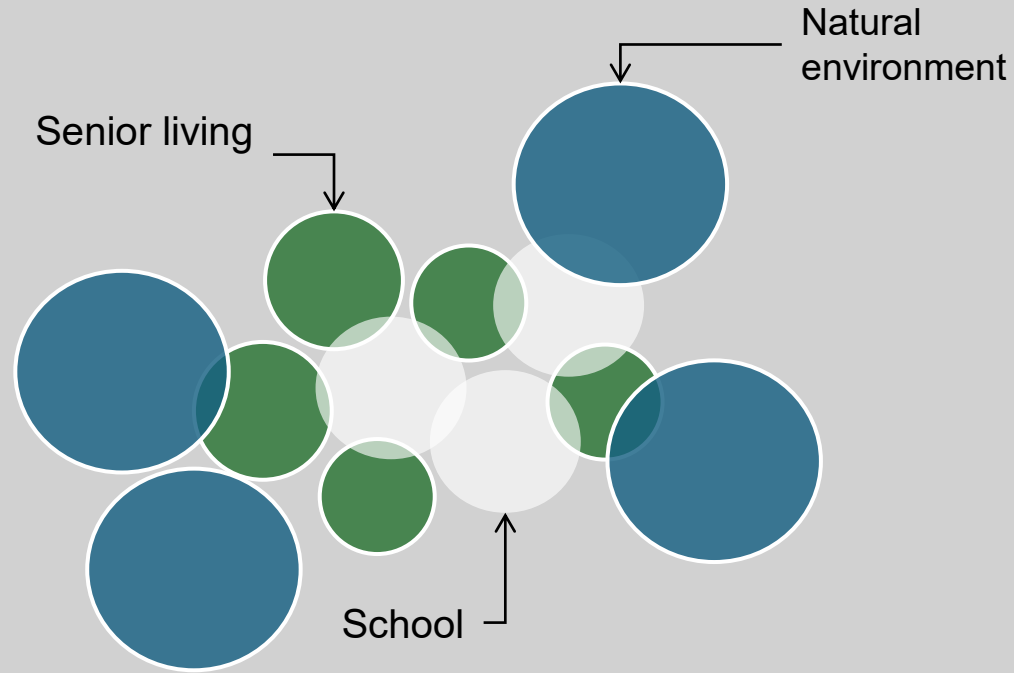


Co-located



Typologies

Hybrid village model (meso-integration): Integration with community to broaden reciprocal benefits, stronger networks and enhancing cohesion.



Community assets



The iGEN program connects Year 10 students with aged-care residents. Through activities like gardening and baking, it builds skills, encourages mutual learning, and promotes wellbeing and social connection across generations.

Institutions: Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University, Mercy Education, Catherine McAuley College and Bethlehem Home for the Aged.

Case study (Melbourne, VIC)

iGEN Learning

InterGenerational Education Nexus

Credit: Catherine McAuley College. (n.d.). *Explore Pastoral Care: iGEN* [Image]. Carter & Co. CREATIVE. Retrieved August 24, 2025, from Catherine McAuley College website. This image is reproduced for non-commercial, academic research and educational purposes only. All rights remain with Catherine McAuley College and Carter & Co

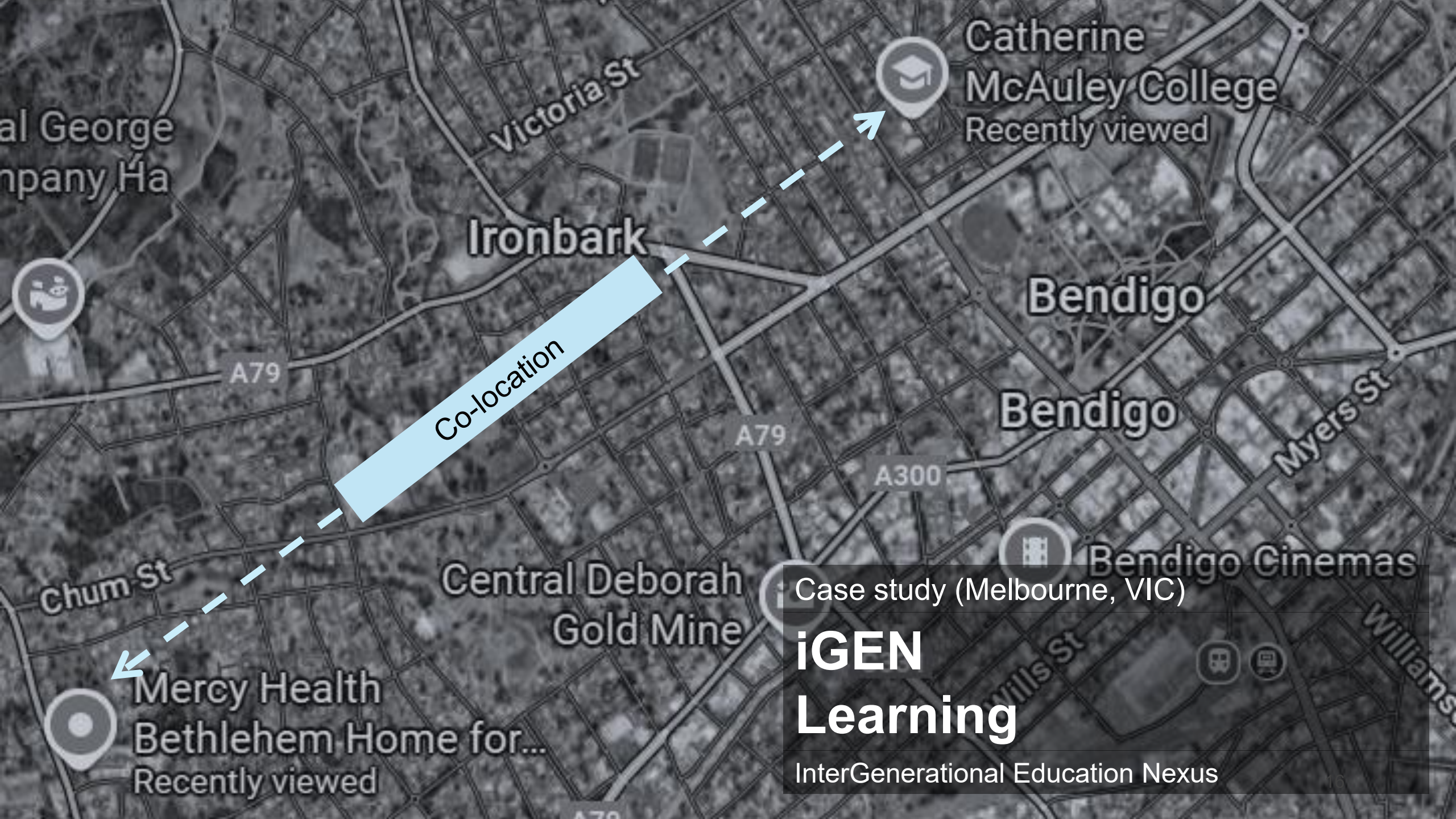
5 years iGEN successfully embedded in curriculum.

2020 Student Enrolments



2024 Student Enrolments





Catherine McAuley College
Recently viewed

Ironbark

Bendigo

Bendigo

Co-location

A79

A300

Chum St

Central Deborah Gold Mine

Bendigo Cinemas

Case study (Melbourne, VIC)

iGEN
Learning

InterGenerational Education Nexus

Mercy Health
Bethlehem Home for...
Recently viewed



“This program gives students a chance to lead with empathy and initiative. And just as importantly, it reminds us that schools have a role to play in building stronger, more connected communities.”

Principal Eloise Beveridge

Case study (Sunshine Coast, QLD)

Immanuel Lutheran College

Immanuel Gardens Aged Care: Growing Together –
A Garden for Generations

Credit: Immanuel Lutheran College. (2025, May 30). *The Life-Changing Power of Connection: Immanuel's GrandSchools Journey* [Image]. *The Immanuel Journal*. Immanuel Lutheran College.

2024 inception

Volunteering

High student engagement after school hours

Connectivity

Retirement residents utilising campus facilities and spaces

Case study (Sunshine Coast, QLD)

Immanuel Lutheran College

Immanuel Gardens Aged Care (2024)

CO-LOCATION

Immanuel Lutheran College
Recently viewed



Immanuel Early Learning
Centre Child Care
Recently viewed



Forest Dr



Immanuel Gardens

Grandis Ct

Hibiscus Dr

Breeze Rd

Ken Thamm Dr



Immanuel Gardens
Retirement Living, Aged...
Home Nursing Care

Immanuel Gardens





Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) is an intergenerational art program designed to build meaningful connections between older adults living with dementia and younger volunteers (often students). It was developed at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center (Ohio, USA) and has since been implemented worldwide.

(Program created by Dr. Elizabeth Lokon)

Case study: Co-location (Massachusetts, USA)

Swampscott Senior Centre

Opening Minds Through Art (OMA)

Credit: Swampscott Senior Center. (n.d.). *OMA – Opening Minds Through Art* [Photograph by Spenser Hasak]. In Swampscott Senior Center's Opening Minds Through Art exhibit. Retrieved August 24, 2025, from Active Aging Swampscott website. Disclaimer: Images are used for non-commercial, academic research and educational purposes only. All rights remain with the Swampscott Senior Center and the photographer, Spenser Hasak.

2007 inception

Programs

- Health class
- Game Changers
- Men's Club
- Tech Ninjas
- Snow Angels
- Quilt Making
- Student Internships and volunteering

Shared Campus High School and Seniors Centre with adjacent senior housing





Jackson Park
200 Essex St, Swampsc...
42.479240, -70.922070



Image credits: Google Maps



**“We don’t want to sit in classroom.”
We want to be in the world....
and connect with others”**

Case study: Hybrid (Aarhus, Denmark)

Generationernes

Hus (“The House of Generations”)

Intergenerational Residential Complex

2020 build completion

Program

New school central to town
Town known for its brickworks
School facilities shared:
Library
Cultural centre

Sports hall
Swimming pool
Green space as connector
Connecting to others



Library

Senior Housing

Sauna

Sports hall

Image Credit:
*"Generationernes Hus
 (House of Generations)
 site plan/masterplan."* ©
 C.F. Møller Architects /
 JJW Arkitekter, accessed
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Disclaimer:
The inclusion of this image is solely for illustrative and educational purposes. Its use does not imply affiliation with, or endorsement by, C.F. Møller Architects, JJW Arkitekter, or any project partners.

A grayscale background image showing two individuals, a woman on the left and a man on the right, engaged in gardening. The woman is holding a large, leafy plant, and the man is using a long-handled tool, possibly a shovel or trowel, to work in the soil. They are both wearing light-colored shirts and dark pants. The setting appears to be an outdoor garden or community space with various plants and a building visible in the background.

KEY LEARNINGS

Case study typologies

- Building design and location impacts access – proximity is key
- Public perception of space influences engagement
- Adequate program resourcing needed for sustainability
- Partnerships essential
- Catalyst activities required to engage community
- Need to sustain vision when staff change
- Community Building
- Potential for tracking health outcomes

A grayscale background image showing a group of people engaged in a community garden project. On the left, a woman in a light-colored t-shirt is smiling and holding a small potted plant. In the center, another person is bent over, working with plants. On the right, a man in a light-colored t-shirt and jeans is using a shovel to dig in the soil. The background shows rows of potted plants and a building with large windows.

CONTESTABLE PROPOSAL

Mark Trotter
Chief Investigator
Queensland University of Technology

10 mins.

PROPOSED CONCEPT



INVESTIGATING ELEMENTS OF A POMONA INTERGENERATIONAL LIVING AND LEARNING MODEL CONCEPT FOR HEALTHY SENIOR LIVING AND A SCHOOL COMMUNITY

EDUCATION	Alternative learning (e.g., Special Assistance Schools)	For 80-120 students, aged 8 to 18 years Operated by secular non-government school entity
HOUSING	Affordable community housing	Near the education precinct 50 residents aged 45 years and above Managed by not-for-profit provider or government
COMMUNITY CONNECTION	Intergenerational relationship structure	Community-led organisation to create shared meaning and purpose to strengthen relationships and learning between students, seniors, and the broader community.
COMMUNITY INCLUSION	Wider pomona involvement	Structure to encourage Pomona residents not living in affordable housing to participate in intergenerational activities.
GOVERNANCE	Ownership and agreements	Separate ownership of each entity, with an Memorandum of Understanding binding the school and seniors for operational purposes.
	Management entity	Dedicated management structure and entity to coordinate detailed cooperation of all parties.

PROPOSED CONCEPT



INVESTIGATING ELEMENTS OF A POMONA INTERGENERATIONAL LIVING AND LEARNING
MODEL CONCEPT FOR HEALTHLY SENIOR LIVING AND A SCHOOL COMMUNITY

LAND & LEASES	Education land lease	30-year lease for education use land.
	Residential land lease	Longer-term lease for residential land (duration to be determined).
SITE DESIGN	Precinct layout	Central education and living precinct, adjacent to the high school.
FACILITIES	Disaggregated school and community spaces	Integrating active and inactive facilities to strengthen and/or expand existing programs and activities with intergenerational elements.
	Shared use	Arrangements, function and operation for cross-age shared use.
WORKFORCE	Paid employment and volunteering	Financial structure enabling paid work and volunteer roles supporting education functions.



LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Susan Schiotz

Coordinator-Community Development
Pomona & District Community House

7 mins.



LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Brian O'Connor
Pomona Resident

8 mins.

A photograph of a group of people. In the foreground, an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a yellow sweater, is smiling and looking towards a young woman. The young woman, with long brown hair, is also smiling and looking towards the man. Other people are visible in the background, slightly out of focus.

GRANDSCHOOLS@POMONA

**EXPLORING A SMALL TOWN MODEL FOR
INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING AND LIVING,
ADAPTABLE FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

POMONA: 'LIVING HERITAGE' LIFESTYLE VILLAGE



Pomona Place Plan



Supported by

Archipelago*

and

Grid

**LAND ZONED
APPROPRIATELY: SITE
FOR COMMUNITY
HOUSING, REAR OF ST
PATRICK'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

**SANDY BOLTON'S
OFFICE IN CONTACT
WITH CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF
BRISBANE OF PLAN**





OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Tiny home village concept (Pomona as manufacturer of tiny homes, employing 12 people) – can include garden, community kitchen and outdoor room
- Alternative education: Flexi School model (can NDSHS Mimburi Campus at Belli Park be utilised?)
- Make seniors' centre for all ages
- Jezzo Park masterplan consultation



GRANDSCHOOLS: THE POMONA MODEL FOR SMALL TOWNS INTERGENERATIONAL LIVING AND LEARNING

What is the practical model we can devise to take forward for community consultation, consistent with their wishes as expressed in the Pomona Place Plan and consistent with the GrandSchools ethos?
Can we be a model for small town Australia?
How do we get there?
A robust Business Plan

Coffee
break





SESSION 1

45 minutes facilitated discussion

15 minutes reporting back

8 mins.

Lunch
break





SESSION 2

50 minutes table discussion

20 minutes reporting back

A grayscale photograph of a community garden activity. On the left, a woman in a light-colored t-shirt is smiling and holding a large, leafy plant. In the center, a person is bent over, working with plants. On the right, a man in a light-colored t-shirt and jeans is using a shovel to dig in the soil. In the background, there are rows of potted plants and a building with large windows.

COMMUNITY SQUARE

WORLD CAFÉ

40 mins.



BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Appreciations

10 mins.



THANK
YOU