

Annex A: Research that touches lives and strengthens communities

No.	Study	Profile/ Interviews available
1	<p>Study of Implementation-effectiveness of the Active Ageing Centre Service Model in Singapore (AAC Study)</p> <p>[Conference presentation title: “If you are caring and sharing, you will make more friends”: Navigating the social infrastructure of Active Ageing Centres]</p> <p>Conducted from 2023 to 2025, the AAC study aims to (i) understand the context and mechanisms of implementing the Active Ageing Centre (AAC) model in Singapore; (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the AAC model implementation, and (iii) co-develop a practical toolkit for replication and scaling up.</p> <p>Social disconnection transcends living arrangements, affecting older persons living alone and with family alike. Recognizing isolation and loneliness as health risks, Singapore has accelerated AAC development in residential neighbourhoods to reduce access barriers and facilitate social engagement. We examine older persons' lived experiences of forming meaningful connections at AACs.</p> <p>Despite AACs' potential to facilitate meaningful social ties through programme offerings and regular touchpoints, older persons reported a misalignment between desired and actual social connections. Barriers to forming meaningful relationships spanned three domains: people (limited bandwidth for staff to facilitate deeper engagement and sustain meaningful interactions), place (polarised perceptions of the AAC being for the ‘sick and very old’ or ‘very active and healthy’), and processes (challenges balancing programme and KPI priorities with relationship building).</p>	<p>Interview with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study lead investigator, Dr Ad Maulod Study participant, Cate Lin (Head, Jalan Besar Active Ageing Centre)
2	<p>The ReCognition Study</p> <p>[Conference presentation title: Beyond Access: Facilities and Facilitation of Museum Engagement with Older Adults]</p> <p>ReCognition Study evaluates the impact of “Refresh and Reconnect!”, an arts-based, museum heritage</p>	<p>Interview with study lead investigators: Dr Ad Maulod and Associate Professor Rahul Malhotra</p> <p>Interview with study participants:</p>

	<p>programme launched by the National Museum of Singapore, on the health and well-being of older persons with cognitive impairment.</p> <p>This mixed methods evaluation seeks to gain insights into the factors, contexts and mechanisms that influence the effect and implementation of the museum-based intervention, and to understand how participation in the programme affects participants' understanding and perception of the museum as a place to enhance their health and well-being. The findings will inform the development of effective, non-pharmacological interventions for older persons with cognitive impairment.</p> <p>The museum sector's evolution toward social inclusion for older persons requires both appropriate facilities and skilled facilitation to meet learning needs and desires for social connection. The museum environment alone does not generate cognitive and social engagement; rather, the interplay between place, people, and programmes brings meaningful engagement to life.</p> <p>This research underscores the potential for older persons to transition from visitors to contributors within museum spaces, with implications for programme design in cultural institutions serving aging populations.</p>	<p>Clara Ang, 35, speaks English and Chinese—Senior Manager at the National Museum of Singapore, research collaborator for ReCognition study</p> <p>Rosalind Tan, 72, speaks English—Care Facilitator, museum docent and facilitator for NMS' senior programmes</p> <p>Mdm Siti, speaks Malay—Senior participant of ReCognition programme</p>
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