

## Migration, Ageing and Digital Kinning: The role of distant care support networks in experiences of ageing well

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WHERE	WHEN	TIME
William Street Family Therapy Centre, 544 William St, Mt Lawley-FREE STREET PARKING	21st October 2019	7.45AM – 9.30AM

### LORETTA BALDASSAR



Loretta Baldassar is Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Western Australia. She has published extensively on migration, with a focus on families and caregiving. Her research team works to combat social isolation and improve digital literacy for older people, particularly people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

#### BRIEF ABSTRACT

Social networks of care and support are fundamental to health and wellbeing, particularly as people age and become increasingly dependent on others for support. With increasing rates of migration and mobility there is a higher probability of the dispersal of family and support networks. Communication technologies have a crucial role of in maintaining these support networks. A new concept, 'digital kinning', is required to draw attention to the processes of using new technologies to facilitate the social connection and social and cultural identities of older people across distance.

In this presentation, case study examples illustrate the key dimensions and benefits of 'digital kinning' for older migrants in home and residential care to provide 1) social connection and support, 2) maintenance of cultural identity, and 3) protection of social identity. This paper identifies ways in which organisations concerned with the care of older people can support practices of 'digital kinning'—including distant kin in healthcare plans and prioritising digital inclusion initiatives.

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