THE DYNAMIC ANALYSES TO OPTIMISE AGEING (DYNOPTA)

The Dynamic Analyses to Optimise Ageing (DYNOPTA) project involves data from nine longitudinal surveys in Australia that are specifically aimed at older people or include a sample of older people with a combined pool of over 50 000 participants. DYNOPTA aims to combine the data from all of these surveys to produce more reliable estimates and more powerful analyses, which may be useful for making decisions about public health and policy. The objective of the project is to use the analysis of all or some of the surveys to examine research questions in ageing. This can increase the power of analyses by increasing the effective sample size, particularly the number of cases of rare conditions. Combining the data may also increase the range of people and the explanatory variables in the analysis again increasing the power of the analysis. It can help adjust for coverage bias or other biases in particular studies.

The nine studies cover a variety of survey designs, and differ in their geographic and demographic coverage as well as in the years of observation. Some surveys are a result of simple random samples, for others stratified, or cluster designs were used. This project considers the statistical methodologies for combing, integrating and analysing the survey data. There are major issues of adjustment and calibration for differences in sample design, weighting procedures, variable definitions, and different collection methods and missing data.

The DYNOPTA project is led by Associate Professor Anstey at the Australian National University. Professor David Steel is a chief investigator at the University of Wollongong, with other chief investigators from University of Canberra, University of Newcastle, University of Sydney, Monash University, and the University of New South Wales. More information is available on the DYNOPTA website: http://dynopta.anu.edu.au

For further information, contact Professor Ray Chambers.