

ARAD NEWSLETTER

Australian Rheumatology Association Database

July 2006

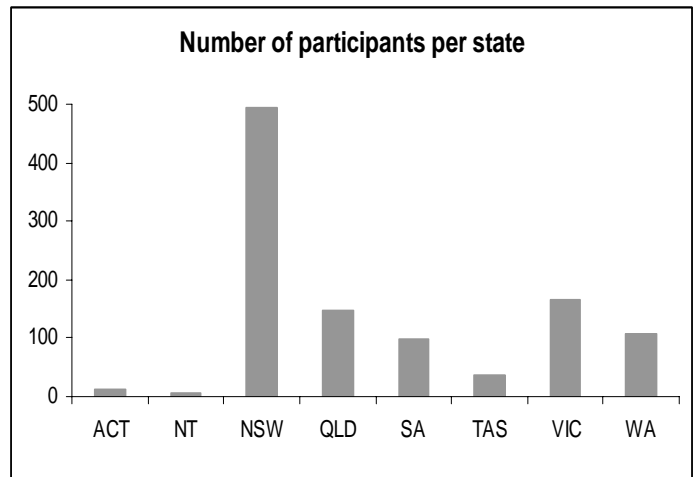
Since the launch of our new recruitment phase in December 2005 the project has grown immensely. This is thanks to the support from participants, such as yourself and your rheumatologist. There are now over 1000 participants in ARAD across Australia.

Did you know that over 3 million Australians have arthritis?

(Arthritis – The Bottom Line: The Economic Impact Of Arthritis in 2004, Access Economics)

That is almost 17% of the population.

- 18.4% women and 15.1% men
- 60% of all people with arthritis are of working age
- If current trends continue in Australia, 1 in 5 people - around 4.6 million - will be living with arthritis in 2020
- The number of people with arthritis is almost the same as the number of people with cardiovascular disease



ARAD Participant Characteristics

	Percentage of total participants
Lives Alone	15
Australian born	59
English language	76
Marital status	
Single	9
Married/defacto	53
Divorced/separated	13
Widow/er	7
Smoking	
Never	35
Ex-smoker	34
Everyday	13
Alcohol	
Never	22
Sometimes	50
Everyday	10

Diagnosis	Percentage of total participants
Rheumatoid arthritis	85
Females	70
Average Age (years)	58
Juvenile arthritis	1
Females	54
Average Age (years)	14
Ankylosing Spondylitis	11
Females	32
Average Age (years)	46

Why are long term studies like ARAD important?

- To detect rare side effects that may occur with some medications as these may not be detected by any other means
- To provide better care and improved outcomes for people with arthritis in Australia
- To provide important feedback to your rheumatologist about the benefits of new treatments

Shorter Questionnaires are on their way!!!

In order to make the questionnaires easier, with the next questionnaire you will receive a list of your previous answers for some questions and only have to answer if there is anything new to report.

Positive Feedback about ARAD

- By now most of you will have completed one of the new questionnaires. We hope these are easier for you to complete. We have had good feedback so far about this new questionnaire design.

Rheumatologists across Australia believe that involvement in ARAD is extremely important and the information we supply to your individual rheumatologist is extremely useful.

Similarity of ARAD questionnaires

Many of our participants comment that the different quality of life questionnaires often ask the same questions. The different questionnaires do capture slightly different aspects of your quality of life. Although they are similar they enable us to compare your responses with those of the general population as well as other registries around the world.

We understand and realise how busy you are but we appreciate the prompt return of your questionnaires. This enables timely reporting to your rheumatologist.

We would also appreciate it if you could check through the questionnaire to make sure that each question has been answered to the best of your knowledge.

Researcher Focus

This edition we are focusing on Lainie Wengier, the ARAD coordinator for Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Northern Territory. Lainie has been with ARAD since 2004 and has been very involved in its development as a national registry. Her background is in neuroscience research, but she enjoys the challenge of coordinating the different activities of the registry and being part of this well respected and valuable project. She also enjoys chatting with people in various parts of Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Northern Territory.



If you need any assistance please contact your relevant state coordinator:

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Who funds ARAD?

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