



UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE

CENTRAL COAST HEALTH & WELLBEING LIVING LAB

Collaborative Innovation for Healthy Ageing and Community Wellbeing

The Central Coast Health & Wellbeing Living Lab (CCLL) is a collaborative initiative between the University of Newcastle and the Central Coast Local Health District, focused on driving innovation in healthy ageing and wellbeing through co-creation with researchers, community members, aged care providers, industry, and government. Our unique place-based approach blends research and community input to shape meaningful, real-world solutions that improve the lives of older people and strengthen the aged care and community health sectors.

PARTNERSHIP CAPABILITIES

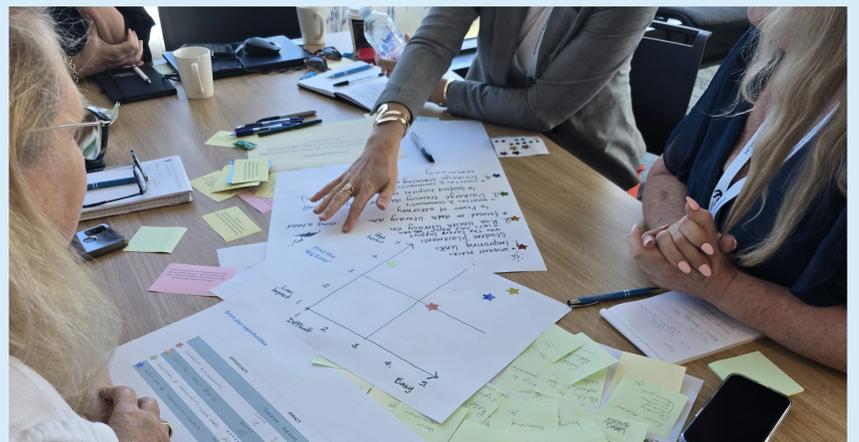
- **Collaborative Co-design:** Working with older adults, clinicians, and service providers to ensure innovations are grounded in lived experience
- **Real-world Testing:** Supporting emerging technologies including AI tools for care planning, AR/VR for assistive technology decisions, and platforms tackling social isolation
- **Innovation Lifecycle Support:** Providing insight generation, prototyping, and evaluation in real settings
- **Strategic Doing Workshops:** Tailored sessions that help organisations collaborate more effectively and move ideas into action
- **User Testing and Feedback:** Structured processes to reduce innovation risk through end-user insights

PROVEN IMPACT

- **Community Engagement:** Over 300 older people, aged care professionals, and clinicians engaged in innovation activities in the past year
- **Industry Partnerships:** Strong cross-sector partnerships formed with over 20 organisations
- **Technology Development:** Four companies have incorporated user feedback from our sessions into their products
- **Research Integration:** Active involvement in grant-funded research projects including the “Living Well After Hospital” project
- **Economic Development:** Support for local delivery of the University’s I2N Pre-Accelerator, working with five health-related startups

BUILDING SOLUTIONS THAT WORK IN THE REAL WORLD

The CCLL’s collaborative approach ensures that innovations are not only technically sound but genuinely useful for the people who need them. In partnership with startups such as The Seniors Channel, A Moment With, and Rel8.app, as well as established organisations, we provide insights that inform the design and development of technologies including AI tools for care planning, digital social platforms, and AR/VR for assistive technology. Companies have already used this feedback to refine and strengthen their solutions. By embedding real-world perspectives early in the innovation process, we help build a more inclusive and responsive innovation culture that reflects the needs of an ageing population.



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