

A literature review of the likely costs and benefits of legislation to prohibit age discrimination in health, social care and mental health services and definitions of age discrimination that might be operationalised for measurement.

Appendix 1 - Methodology

Aims of the review - a rapid literature review with the key focus on costs (and if possible benefits) of removing age discrimination in social care and mental health services with particular emphasis on international literature.

1. Literature search

1.1. Databases

An online search of Ageinfo, Ageline, Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA), BBC News Archive, BLEPS Catalogue, Combined Academic and National Research Library Catalogue (COPAC), Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), Database on anti-discrimination and equity law (DADEL), Dissertation Abstracts, EconLit, ERIC, Gerolit, HEED: Health Economic Evaluations Database, International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS), ISI Web of Knowledge, Medline, National Database of Ageing Research, NHS EED, SCIRUS, Social Care Online, Social Policy and Practice, SourceOECD, and Zetoc were supplemented by hand scanning of key journals, plus a scan of citations in key texts located.

Databases such as Ageinfo cover grey literature, semi-published materials such as pamphlets and reports as well as peer reviewed journal articles.

2. Web searching

2.1. Google and Google Scholar searches of the web were supplemented by searching and browsing key web sites including...

- Age Concern
- AGE the European Older People's Platform
- agediscrimination.info
- Care Services Improvement Partnership
- Equality Authority (Ireland)
- European Commission
- Health Economics Research Group (Brunel)
- Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission (Australia)
- Institute for Public Policy Research
- Kings Fund
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research
- University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

3. Other methods

- 3.1. Database and web searching was supplemented by browsing reference lists in key articles and the contents and index lists of selected journals.
- 3.2. Conversations were also held with individuals likely to have knowledge of materials and studies appropriate to the review.

4. Search strategies

- 4.1. A search strategy was developed to help locate materials on the various databases and on the web, but the strategy could not be applied blindly or uniformly because of restrictions in the search capabilities of each database.
- 4.2. Except in the case of Ageinfo, where searching was carried out by the CPA staff who index the database, most searching was of free text fields. This maximised recall, the amount of relevant material found, but reduce precision (the proportion of initially retrieved material that is relevant). Material found not to be relevant was removed by hand.
- 4.3. Because the target studies were likely either to be very small in number or not to exist at all, it was decided to adopt a series of broad based search strategies that were likely to find all related material at the expense of precision. Extraneous material was removed by hand.
- 4.4. Several separate and distinct approaches to the topic were adopted
 - 1) The identification of international age discrimination legislation in the area of health, mental health and social care services and any impact assessments or cost and benefit analyses that might have been carried out
 - 2) Health care costs and the contribution to those costs of older people and an ageing population.
 - 3) The nature and extent of age discrimination in health, social care and mental health services and the likely impact of measures to outlaw that discrimination

5. Top level search facets

5.1. Strategy (1) - 1

legislation

Search terms: *law or legislation or act or acts or bill or bills or parliament*

AND

age discrimination

Search terms: *ageism or (age and discrimination) or age equality*

AND

impact

Search terms: impact or effect or cost* or benefit*

5.2. Strategy (1) - 2

legislation

Search terms: *law or legislation or act or acts or bill or bills or parliament*

AND

age discrimination

Search terms: ageism or (age and discrimination) or age equality

NOT

employment

Search terms: employment or occupation

5.3. Strategy (2)

older people[†]

Search terms: older people or elderly or ageing or aging or ageism or age discrimination or age equality

AND

health economics

Search terms: health economics or econometrics or economic model*

[†] *The broader search terms in the older people search facet are not used in databases such as Ageline and Ageinfo that are exclusively about older people.*

5.4. Strategy (3) -1

age discrimination

Search terms: ageism or age discrimination or age equality or rationing

AND

health services

Search terms: health(*includes mental health*) or social care

Strategy (3) -2

age discrimination

Search terms: ageism or age discrimination or age equality or rationing

NOT

employment

Search terms: employment or occupation

6. Search process

6.1. The database search results were, in some cases filtered in-situ before being transferred to Reference Manager software where further filtering took place. The Reference Manager results were further filtered before being transferred to a common Cardbox database where duplicate entries were marked and all entries rated to identify candidates for a fuller examination.

6.2. The bibliography and reference lists were generated from this common database.

7. Database search results

| Database | Results and Notes | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| | Search | Filtered | RefMan | Cardbox |
| Ageinfo, | 140 | 121 | 62 | 62 |
| | | | | |
| Ageline, | 440 | 440 | 52 | 52 |
| | | | | |
| Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA) | 251 | 111 | 58 | 58 |
| | | | | |
| BLEPS Catalogue | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| | | | | |
| Combined Academic and National Research Library Catalogue (COPAC) | 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL) | 44 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| DADEL (database on Anti-discrimination and Equality Law) | 16 | | | |
| (not really searchable – browsing grounds=age = 16 documents) | | | | |
| Dissertation Abstracts | 15 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | |
| EconLit | 86 | 86 | 29 | 29 |
| | | | | |
| ERIC | 0 | - | - | - |
| | | | | |
| Gerolit | 95 | 50 | - | - |
| | | | | |
| HEED: Health Economic Evaluations Database | n/a | | | |
| | | | | |
| International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) | 58 | 58 | 27 | 27 |
| | | | | |
| ISI Web of Knowledge (Web of Science) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| ISI Web of Knowledge (Current Contents Connect) | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| | | | | |
| Medline/ PubMed | 221 | 221 | 114 | 114 |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----|----|
| | | | | |
| National Database of Ageing Research | 27 | 11 | - | - |
| | | | | |
| NHS EED / DARE | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS) | 8 13 25 | 2 7 12 | 6 | 6 |
| | | | | |
| SourceOECD | 72 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| Social Care Online | 131 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| | | | | |
| Social Policy and Practice | 138 81 10 | 138 81 10 | 48 | 48 |
| | | | | |
| Westlaw | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| Zetoc | 133 | 133 | 58 | 58 |
| | | | | |

8. A supplementary study was carried out to identify measures of age discrimination that might be operationalised for measurement
 - 8.1. The search strategy adopted focused on the facets **age discrimination** (Search terms: *ageism* or *age discrimination* or *age equality*) and **measurement** (search terms: *audit** or *measur** or *defin** or *evidence** or *benchmark** or *research*)
 - 8.2. Most of the databases used in the main study were revisited but this time searches were grouped by host. Econlit/ASSIA/ERIC/Medline/PAIS/SSA found 484 items from which 51 were selected as relevant. CINAHL/Dissabs/Global Health/IBSS/SPP produced 622 items 95 of which were relevant. Ageinfo produced 34 relevant items and Ageline 472 of which 51 were relevant.
 - 8.3. Many items had already been located in the initial study. Both Google Scholar and SCIRUS had high recall using the search terms. Extensive scanning of the results however produced only a small number of relevant items but did find some very relevant items that had not been located by other means.