**IDEAS LEADERSHIP REPORT #1**

Providing information regarding Ideas Ready for Incubation

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| **Idea Name** | Reducing social Isolation in Residential Aged Care Services | **Idea Team** | Andrea Mabalo - TSA  Patrik Ekstrom - TSA  Jasmine Knox - Swinburn  Edwina Simpson – Uniting |
| **Season/ Challenge** | Loneliness Challenge | **Idea Coach** | Anthony Sell  anthony.sell@seed.org.au |
| **RDL Date** | MAY / JUNE | **Incubator /Pilot Date** | July 2021 – Dec 2021 |
| **Allocated Budget** | $12,500 | | |

**Idea Summary**

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| **Idea Background (Story of Change)** |
| Social isolation and loneliness is an increasing concern. Social isolation, defined as the lack of social contacts, is impacting Australian’s well-being significantly. The Productivity Commission has pointed to a clear correlation between lack of social connection and poor mental health, self-harm and Australia’s high (9 deaths per day) suicide rate. With an ageing population, loneliness and social isolation among older adults is becoming a growing issue. Older people in aged care are particularly vulnerable to social isolation, loneliness and their deleterious effects on mental and physical health. Currently, when someone is entered into residential age care front line workers report an over emphasis on a medical/ health approach to assessment and the social/relational element if often not attended to intentionally. A royal commission mandated the need for a social assessment at intake.  This pilot is responding to front-line worker's requests for tools or toolkit that assists in a more person-centred assessment ‘conversation’ that will offer a greater degree of understanding of the residents’ relational needs and their social connections. |
| **Solution Approach (Vehicle of Change)** |
| This project, a collaboration between two industry partners and a research partner, will tackle the pertinent issue of social isolation in the aged care sector. Together we will create and implement an evidence and strengths based (as opposed to deficit orientated) tool to increase social connection for residents in aged care facilities.  This project will build upon the Social Connection model, a framework developed previously with the Australian Red Cross, and will benefit from the support and expertise of our other key industry partners The Salvation Army and Uniting Care. The specific pilot questions are:  1. What are the experiences of residents, family members and staff members in pursuing social connection in residential aged care facilities?  2. What local pro-social infrastructure exists and how can connection between residents and these spaces/places/ groups be created or strengthened.  The pilot will:  1.Develop a co-designed, strength based social connection assessment tool  2.Provide staff training  3.Implement pilot in 2 sites |
| **Measurement** |
| Creation of tool – Social Connection Assessment Tool  Uptake of tool in residential age care  Academic partner will ensure strong evidence base is collected to ensure sector credibility on the outputs, findings and any recommendations. |
| ***Key Risks*** |
| Industry Collaboration: All partners meeting their agreed commitments.  Uptake of additional assessment activities in a context and process (Aged Care intake) that has limited human resources availability to competently complete these new assessments with quality control  Tool must be linked to industry standards and be accessible to ensure adoption  Safeguarding residents and families in pilot process |
| ***Strategic/ Mission Alignment*** |
| This IDEA aligns with Mission objections of;  Caring for people  Building Healthy Communities  Strengthening the Army’s voice on National issues  Encouraging Innovation |
| ***Financial Sustainability*** |
| In-kind support:  The Salvation Army and Uniting contribution staff hours (working group) and test sites staff hours. Training on social connections – Swinburne  Once tool is created minimal costings will be assessed to support quality roll out across industry. |
| ***Department Alignment*** |
| BAU department TSA Age Care |

**Key Stakeholders (Internal)**

**In future instances key stakeholders would be identified by the newly formed IAG (Innovation Advisory Group)**

*List the key stakeholders that require consultion prior to this Idea progressing to Incubation.*

| **Stakeholder** | **Department** | **Area of Interest (Awareness / Input / Approval)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Andrea Mabalo | Age Care | Gill Waminda Aged Care Centre |
| Patrik Ekstrom | Age Care | Business improvement |
| TBA | Legal | Need Collaboration MoU and agreements formed for Lead agency. Intellectual property arrangements will also need to be negotiated as this is a sector strengthening initiative. |
| Anthony Sell | Innovations | Incubation Coach |

**Key Stakeholders- Strategic Partners (External)**

*List the key strategic partners who are or will be working on this idea*

| **Stakeholder** | **Organisation** | **Strategic Partner Role** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Edwina Simpson | Uniting | Industry partner and pilot site and IDEA Team |
| Jasmine Knox | Social Innovation Research Institute – Swinburne University | Research and analysis and IDEA Team |
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*\*For further information on this idea, please email the Idea Coach or visit the ideas in motion on the* [*ideas platform*](https://ideas.salvationarmy.org.au)*. Please also contact the idea coach if you have any concerns or information about potential duplication or work or collaboration opportunies if you are aware of individuals/ departments working on something similar.*