

Reference Number: **2016.0037**
Collection/Series Title: **ALMA UNIT FOR WOMEN AND AGEING ARCHIVE**

Creator	Alma Unit for Women and Ageing
Creator's Activity/Occupation	
<p>Creator's Historical Note</p> <p>The Alma Unit on Women and Ageing was a unique research and teaching body initially located at the Key Centre for Womens Health, School of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Melbourne. Established through a philanthropic grant awarded to the University of Melbourne by Fleur Spitzer OAM, the unit was formally launched at University of Melbourne in March 1996 by Betty Freidan at University House.</p> <p>Under the leadership of Professor Lorraine Dennerstein, then Director of the Key Centre for Womens Health, the unit was recognised for its contribution it made to multidisciplinary research and teaching on older womens health and wellbeing. The unit was the first of its kind in Australia with a focus on the quality of the ageing experience for older women.</p> <p>By taking a broad psychosocial approach to ageing, and in recognition that gender does matter, the research undertaken by this unit was innovative and ground breaking with relevance to the broader community, policy makers and service delivery as well as through academic research, teaching and its student community. The academic staff at the Alma Unit provided substantial input into academic knowledge, publications, research and teaching about the experience of ageing for women from a diverse range of social and cultural backgrounds. Staff at the Key Centre were involved in teaching of international students through a series of short courses on womens health.</p> <p>The Alma Unit's work has led to international recognition, collaborations and publications and it was regarded as a leader in the field. The work of the Director Dr Susan Feldman and other staff inspired a generation of research students and colleagues through collaborations with other academic institutions and provided the impetus for others to enter into this field of endeavour. A number of key researchers from around the world visited the centre on sabbatical or study leave contributing to the vibrant intellectual life of the unit and in particular publications and research opportunities.</p> <p>The unit staff produced books, chapters, academic papers, public forums and seminars, exhibitions and conferences and achieved nationally competitive grants including ARC. Staff also undertook engagements beyond the academy, taking part in radio, television and print interviews. The Alma Unit also provided the environment and supervision of higher degree post graduate students.</p> <p>Between 1997 and 2000, the Alma Unit moved and became part of the newly-established Centre for the Study of Health and Society, Faculty of Medicine. In 2001, Alma Unit relocated to Victoria University, and subsequently to Monash University. Ms Spitzer continued her financial support through this period until the unit closed in 2013.</p>	
Date Range of Collection/Series	22 September 1992-2005
Size/Extent	5 units (0.92m)
Access Conditions	Access: Part restricted

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

The Alma Unit for Women and Ageing archive contains records concerning the inception of the Unit at the University of Melbourne, newsletters, correspondence, speeches, Unit publications and photographs, including one of Betty Friedan, Fleur Spitzer and Dr Lorraine Dennerstein (Director of the Alma Unit for Women and Ageing) at the Unit's launch in 1994.

Collection Category	Culture and the Arts, organisations
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This document dated	20/07/2016
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**To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives
Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.**

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0037 Unit 1	2016.0037.00001	Launch of the Alma Unit for Women and Ageing, Photographs	24 March 1994	Eighteen colour photographs, Susan Feldman photographer. Three black and white photographs, photographer University of Melbourne.
2016.0037 Unit 5	2016.0037.00002	Correspondence and report relating to the future of the Alma Unit	9 October 1995-22 November 1996	Correspondence between Fleur Spitzer and Faye Marles (Chair, Committee of Management, Key Centre for Women's Health in Society), correspondence and attached review, Gordon Clooney (Dean of Medicine) to Associate Professor Jill Astbury (Key Centre for Women's Health in Society)
2016.0037 Unit 1	2016.0037.00003	Launch of the Alma Unit for Women and Ageing, Correspondence	6 December 1993-24 March 1994	Planning Documents for the launch, Betty Friedan invited to open the centre.
2016.0037 Unit 1	2016.0037.00004	Alma Unit Planning, Development, implementation and establishment	29 September 1992-c.1996	Fleur Spritzer correspondence confirming establishment of the Alma Centre, Fleur Spritzer
2016.0037 Unit 1	2016.0037.00005	Alma Unit, Budget, Management Meetings, Minutes, Agenda and Correspondence	1 December 1993-20 February 1997	
2016.0037 Unit 2	2016.0037.00006	Alma Unit Speeches, Interviews, Panel Discussions, and Papers	1 December 1993-30 April 2001	Speeches and presentations, interviews, discussions, and papers relating to women's ageing and health issues, by people such as Fleur Spritzer, Susan Feldman, Dorothy Kyte, Paul Komesaroff, Lorraine Dennerstein, and Frances A Matsuda.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0037 Unit 2	2016.0037.00007	Alma Unit Strategy, Review and move to the newly initiated University of Melbourne Centre for the Study of Health and Society	23 February 1996-c. 1999	Name Change 1997 from Alma Unit for Women and Ageing - to the Alma Unit for Research and Ageing (gender and health across the life span)
2016.0037 Unit 2	2016.0037.00008	The Key to Women's Health, Newsletters	December 1993-Septemb er 1996	Newsletter produced by the University of Melbourne Key Centre.
2016.0037 Unit 2	2016.0037.00009	Health and Society, Newsletters	July 1998-April 2004	Newsletter produced by Centre for the Study of Health and Society.
2016.0037 Unit 2	2016.0037.00010	Alma Unit Sponsored Workshop	1994-1999	Thirteen black and white photographs of 'Writing Workshop' taken by University Photographer in 1995, includes copy of the book We're Not Nice Old Ladies
2016.0037 Unit 2	2016.0037.00011	Living Old Then and Now, exhibition	1999	Brochure for exhibition held at the Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne Baillieu Library, includes 19 colour photographs, Susan Feldman Photographer.
2016.0037 Unit 3	2016.0037.00012	Transfer of Alma Unit to Victoria University	18 July 2000-29 September 2005	Correspondence about move of Alma Unit to Victoria University (Warwick Anderson, Fleur Spritzer, Janet McCullum. Photographer Susan Feldman 39 Colour photographs (18 July 2000)
2016.0037 Unit 3	2016.0037.00013	Publications, Outreach and Community Engagement	1994-2005	Brochures, media releases, 'The unfolding of the Chrysalis', report 'An Age-Old Problem or a New Opportunity?', 'Richer Understandings of Women and Ageing'.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0037 Unit 3	2016.0037.00014	Publication of Something That Happens to Other People	1994-1996	Correspondence about the publication Something that happens to other people, and an article by Susan Feldman et. Al. 'A foray into commercial publishing' in Generation: Australian Jewish Life and Thought, Trisbet 5757/October 1996, vol. 6, nos 1 & 2, pp. 7-11.
2016.0037 Unit 4	2016.0037.00015	Media, articles and newscuttings	c.1992-c.2000	Articles about the unit
2016.0037 Unit 3	2016.0037.00016	Graduate Programs in Women's Health	2004	Two volumes produced by Susan Feldman
2016.0037 Unit 4	2016.0037.00017	Betty Friedan	1994	Photograph taken by a University of Melbourne Photographer, framed photograph with 1994 dedication from Betty Friedan 'For the Alma Unit on the cutting edge'.
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