

Ageing in Place in Australia: Concepts and Reality

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Broadening the meaning of 'Place'

- AIP not necessarily just about 'staying put'
- About enabling people to live in a place that maximises self-fulfilment and preferred lifestyle

Dimensions of 'place' in AIP

1. Houses/Homes
2. Locality/Community
3. Support/Care

Actions, choices and preferences of older West Australians related to 'Ageing in Place'

A Case study

Broad Aim

To investigate ageing in place intentions in terms of the 3 dimensions of place:

1. House and home
2. Locality and community
3. Support and care

National Seniors Australia (NSA)

- Largest organisation representing over 50s
- Over 250,000 members nationally
- About 28,000 members in Western Australia
- Represents almost 5% of 50+ population

Method

- Random sample of WA members of NSA, stratified by location and socio-economic index
- Mail survey ~ 7,000 (24% of members)
- 3,050 respondents (45% response rate)
- Results weighted to represent WA membership
- 39 semi-structured interviews

Respondents by age group

Age group	Number	%
Under 55	279	9.3
55-64	1544	51.3
65-74	819	27.2
75+	365	12.1
Total	3007*	100.0
	* 43 missing	

Respondents – other info

- 40% left school before year 10; whereas
- 23% had university degree(s)
- 87% owned own house
- 22% living alone
- 49% working full or part-time
- 19% retired on pension
- 57% self-rated health ‘excellent/very good’
- 13% they or partner needed some assistance with IADLs or ADLs

Respondents by location

	Number	%
Metro (Perth/Fremantle)	1630	54.1
Country town	1092	36.2
Other rural	291	9.7
Total	3013	100.0

Moved house by age group

Years	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
Less than 1	<u>12.0%</u>	8.3%	<u>4.4%</u>	6.2%
1 - 4	<u>26.4%</u>	21.3%	17.0%	<u>13.7%</u>
Total	<u>38.4%</u>	29.6%	21.4%	<u>19.9%</u>

Distance moved by age group

Distance	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
< 2km	<u>11.5%</u>	15.9%	14.6%	<u>28.6%</u>
2 - 9km	19.7%	19.5%	20.1%	<u>32.5%</u>
10 – 49km	<u>26.2%</u>	17.9%	16.3%	22.1%
50km +	42.7%	46.7%	48.9%	<u>16.8%</u>

Why moved by age group

Reasons ranked by % 'Very Important'	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
Where wanted live rest of life	20.5	29.0	<u>34.2</u>	<u>36.9</u>
Wanted lifestyle change	<u>30.8</u>	<u>30.6</u>	21.5	3.4
Employment related	<u>27.1</u>	<u>23.2</u>	5.6	0.0
To be closer to family/friends	5.9	17.4	<u>25.8</u>	19.6
Retirement	8.4	14.8	<u>29.4</u>	22.6
Upkeep/ maintenance issues*	8.5	14.7	21.4	<u>31.1</u>

'Downsized' from separate house, by age group

Residence moved to (%)	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
Semi-detached, terrace, town house	4.7	4.8	6.0	13.5
Flat, unit, apartment	2.3	8.9	17.3	<u>33.2</u>
Total	<u>7.0</u>	13.7	23.3	<u>46.7</u>

Intend to stay as age?

	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
Yes	<u>37.3</u>	43.4	52.6	<u>61.9</u>
Unsure	10.8	13.1	14.9	13.8
No	51.9	43.5	32.5	24.3

Why thinking of staying

Reasons ranked by % 'Very Important'	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
It is comfortable	<u>66.9</u>	74.9	77.2	75.6
Financially viable	<u>65.8</u>	74.4	74.0	71.5
Good location	<u>57.3</u>	70.4	67.3	69.1
Feel safe and secure	<u>53.9</u>	65.8	68.6	<u>72.6</u>
Good location/ access to services	<u>49.6</u>	67.3	65.9	67.8
Like neighbourhood	56.4	<u>66.9</u>	61.0	58.6
Good neighbours	52.6	55.9	59.4	55.9

Importance of Home Modifications

- Those who had NOT carried out Mods were 1.38 times more likely to think about moving in the short term
- Those who had NOT carried out Mods were 1.31 times more likely to think about moving in the longer term

Home Modifications, by age group

	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
Yes	<u>33.5%</u>	39.1%	51.2 %	<u>60.5%</u>

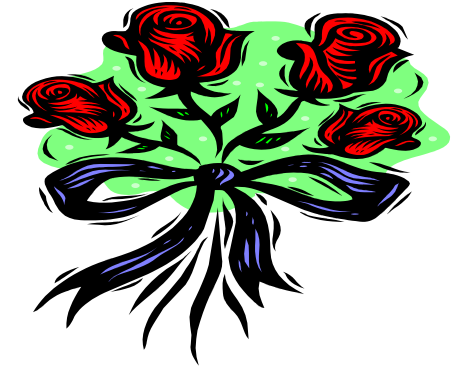
Types of mods made by age group

Type of modification (%)	<55	55-64	65-74	75+
Air-con or temperature control	70.1	72.7	68.6	69.2
Kitchen modifications	42.1	41.3	37.2	28.1
Bathroom modifications	28.0	35.7	34.3	<u>40.2</u>
Additional lighting	<u>35.5</u>	30.8	26.6	24.6
Internal or external rails	12.1	12.0	20.8	<u>41.5</u>
Purpose built bedroom & ensuite	<u>14.0</u>	10.0	8.1	9.8
Non-slip steps or flooring	3.7	7.7	9.3	<u>14.7</u>
Ramp	<u>14.0</u>	5.3	8.6	7.6

Some 'conclusions'

- Need to broaden AIP concept
- Each dimension of 'place' influences moving decisions
- Attachment to locality more important with increasing age
- Rural communities increasingly difficult for older people
- Need for more small scale housing
- Modifying home common strategy to enable independence
- As age - focus on 'Independence' and place to maximise 'Managing' rather than need for 'Support and Care'

Acknowledgements



- The other members of our research team: Linda Grenade, Gill Lewin, Elizabeth Karol and Elissa Burton
- National Seniors Australia for funding the research
- NSA members for participating

Where would you prefer to age?

