Decades of Housing Decline: 2011 & 2021 Census Analysis

New census data shows that over the last ten years, the housing circumstances for people aged 55 years and older in Queensland have gotten worse. This report is based on original research conducted for Housing for the Aged Action Group by researchers at Swinburne University of Technology, Western Sydney University and Curtin University.











Queensland's population is ageing

2011=24.7%

of people are over 55

2021=28.9%

In 2021 there were 1,485,801 Queenslanders over 55 years of age, 420,385 more older people than in 2011.

The proportion of Queenslanders over 55 increased from 24.7% in 2011, to 28.9% in 2021.

Older Queenslanders are less likely to own their own home outright

2011=58.7%

2021=55.6%

The proportion of older people who own their own home is steadily declining, dropping 4.3% in ten years.

And are more likely to be in a household paying off a mortgage

40%

50%

2011=20.2%

2021=23.1%

Older People are less likely to be living in Public or Community Housing

2011=3.9%

4%

2021=3%

The proportion of public and community housing tenants is declining due to lack of government investment, while waiting lists continue to grow.

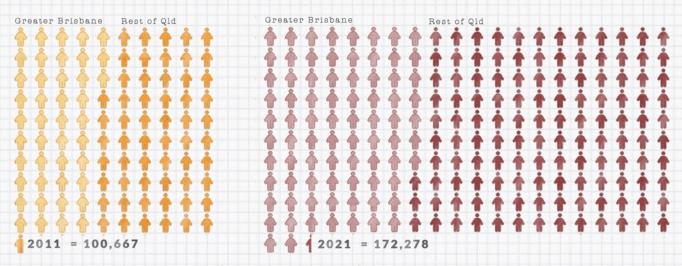
Leaving more older Queenslanders stuck in private rental

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 2011=10.7%

2021=13.1%

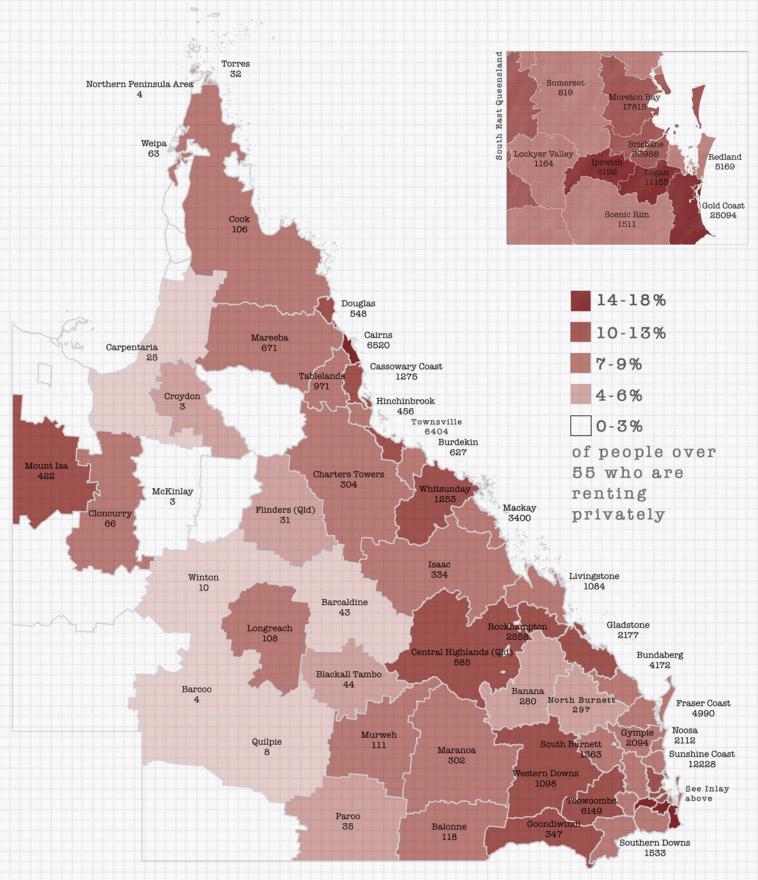
The proportion of older people in private rental has jumped significantly over the last ten years, and is higher than any other state. Combined with the rising cost of rent and low availability of suitable rental properties across Queensland, many of these older renters will be at risk of homelessness.

Combined with population growth and rapidly ageing population, the number of older private renters is increasing dramatically



The sheer numbers of an extra 70,000 older renters, a 71% increase over 10 years, should be a major policy concern.

Older people are renting throughout the state



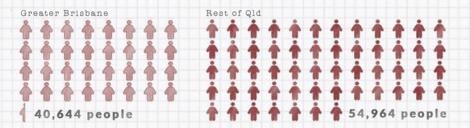
Older Residents of suburban Ipswich and Logan cities are more likely to be renting than others in the Greater Brisbane region. Meanwhile in regional Queensland, the cities of Cairns, Gold Coast, Townsville and Mount Isa are hotspots for populations of older renters.

Older, low income, private renters are most at risk of homelessness



The number of older people in the lowest income households living in private rental housing is increasing.

Unlike many other states of Australia, there are many more low-income older private renters living in regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland compared to the Greater Brisbane area, showing a need for outreach and services beyond the capital city.

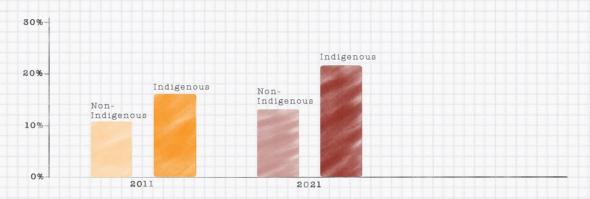


More older women on the lowest incomes are living in private rental



Older women in very low income households are over-represented in private rental compared to men.

Older Indigenous people are overrepresented in private rental



In 2021, nearly 22% of older Indigenous people were living in private rental housing compared to 13% of non-Indigenous older people.