

Housing, homelessness and ageing well in Western Australia

Older renters aged 65+ 

12.4%
of older people
aged 65+ are **renters**

62%
of older renters are living in
the private rental market

A rapidly growing number of older people are not well housed

Homeless 

1,500

people aged 55+ are homeless - **617** are aged 65+

16% increase

for those aged 65-74, the highest increase of all age groups. This is occurring at a time when the rate of homelessness for children and youth has declined

Marginally housed 

1,186

people aged 55+ are marginally **housed without basic facilities** in boarding houses, caravan parks, hotel, other temporary dwellings

Private rental housing 

12,136 older people are in **housing stress**
– on lowest 40% of incomes and paying 30%+ in rent

Of those in housing stress

9,029 or 74% are in **severe housing stress** – on lowest 20% of incomes and paying 30%+ in rent
struggling to pay rent, bills and buy food

4,395 or 36% are in **extreme housing stress** – on lowest 20% of incomes and paying 50%+ in rent
imminent risk of eviction, debt and food deprivation

35% or 1,534 of those in extreme housing stress are **aged 75+**
increased risk of illness, disability and premature entry into residential aged care

Number of older people at **risk of homelessness** is **increasing rapidly. 46.8% increase** between 2011-2016

The majority of older people at **risk of homelessness** are lone persons households (69%). Of lone persons households



Factors for women in Australia:

43% of women work **part-time**

Women take on average **five years out of the workforce** to care for children or family

Women working full-time earn **18% less** than men

Women currently retire with **47% less** superannuation than men

What are the solutions?

- More social and affordable housing for older people
- Aged specific social housing application guidelines
- Innovative housing models for older people such as: co-housing, co-operatives, moveable units, intergenerational housing
- Establish a one-stop-shop housing service for older people to help them navigate a complex housing system
- Involve older people in the development, design and management of housing and services

The cost of not taking action

- Stress
- Health
- Poverty
- Hospitalisation
- Premature entry into residential aged care
- Isolation

The benefits of taking action

- Improved health, stability and less stress, comfort and belonging, able to manage living costs (food, utilities -heating/cooling, medication) social participation