




Creating caring and inclusive communities and a just society

A roadmap for ageing well: Independence, connections and care

Presented by
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Australian Association of Gerontology Conference
Nov 2010



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The Benevolent Society




- Provides support to more than 31,000 children and adults each year through services ranging from child care to community aged care to leadership programs
- 800 staff and 700 volunteers
- 122 services across 55 locations, primarily in NSW and Queensland
- Revenue in 2010 was \$62m (76% from government sources)
- 30% ageing and community care



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The broad context



- Older age is a normal phase of life like any other, and it affects us all
- The ageing of the Australian population is a success story
- But it is seen as negative, liable to bankrupt us all
- It certainly presents social and economic challenges for individuals, families, communities and governments.
- So our only option is to.....


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A poster produced by the British government in 1939 during the beginning of World War II, intended to raise the morale of the British public under the threat of impending invasion.

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But seriously, we also know...



- The older population is changing as well as growing.
- Older people are wealthier than ever, but this masks considerable and growing differences in economic circumstances.
- Low paid workers, people who were out of the labour market for long periods, and people who enter older age as renters are the most susceptible to a financially vulnerable older age.
- Some older people are in deep economic disadvantage, predominantly private renters who live alone.
- Ageism is alive and kicking.
- Social isolation is too – estimated 7-10%
- Older people's housing choices are limited, especially in the later years, by a shortage of suitable and affordable housing that allows them to stay connected to the community.
- The community care system is unsustainable and overdue for reform.




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Position Paper



“A roadmap for ageing well: Independence, connections and care”



Outlines changes needed to:

- Harness opportunities for older people to participate more fully in economic, social and family life, for the benefit of the community as a whole and for older people themselves
- Enable people to remain independent, active and socially connected in older age
- Improve people's quality of life in older age when health problems mount
- Address social exclusion among vulnerable older people
- Ensure that Australia's systems of social support, housing and care of older people are adequate.

Key recommendations include



- Older people should be considered as **part of mainstream policy decision-making**, rather than as an afterthought, or as a problematic section of the community with 'special needs'.
- A 'seniors policy lens' is a useful framework.
- Greater policy attention should be given to social exclusion in older age and to older people in deep economic disadvantage.
- Additional policy and community responses are needed to address **social isolation** among older people. It should be an integral component of the program goals of community care services and health promotion services.

Key recommendations cont.



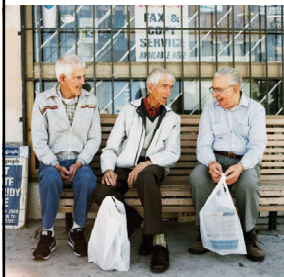
- With the projected growth in numbers of older people and affordability problems faced by a significant minority, greater public policy attention must be given to **older people's housing**.
- A **national older persons' housing strategy** is required to increase the stock of housing suited to an ageing population and to address affordability issues.
- Support for **new models of housing, care and support**, such as Apartments for Life.

Key recommendations cont.



- **Community care services should be re-oriented** to focus on people's goals, strengths and abilities. Care services should be about enabling older people who cannot do so without some help, to live as full a life as possible.
- Once assessed as needing them, older people should be **entitled to receive care services**.
- Community care should provide for people to receive **flexible care services based on their needs, circumstances and preferences**, and for services to adapt as these change.
- This means intensive **short term restorative care** that helps people 'get back on their feet' for example, after periods of ill-health, as well as **ongoing care** for people whose health is poor or declining.

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