



Aged & Community Services Australia
Leading the aged and community care industry

Ageing and Aged Care – The Providers' Perspective
on
Whose Needs, How Well Met?

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Agenda

- Whose needs? – Selected characteristics
- How well met? -interesting questions
- The image of aged care
- Interesting links for the future?
- Policy questions (non-exhaustive list)

Whose needs?

- 1940s origins
 - Housing needs of low-income older people
 - Nursing care needs of frail older people
- Now merged?
- Housing and care needs of older people
- Health and aged care:

“Two giant interconnecting cogs”

National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission p107

Whose needs?

- Growth in numbers
 - 85+ the real measure of need for care
 - 61% increase in past 10 years
 - 400% in next 50yrs to 5% of popn. (= 8% pa)
- Diversity now
- Diversity in the future
 - on many dimensions

How well met?

- Depends on how you measure?
 - Places per persons aged 70+ have increased
 - Places per person aged 85+ have decreased

Table 3.22

- Big gap in community care CACP-EACH

Table 3.15

- Need for self-care doubles, for example
- Common use of multiple programs
 - 28% of CACP clients also using HACC (PIAC)
 - 40% of VHC also using HACC

How well met?

- ACFI will give data more like community care on types of care needed
 - 34% high in ADLs
 - 34% high in behaviour
 - 14% high in complex health care
- Aged care homes are not hospitals
 - Despite 76% of residents being high care!

The image of aged care

- The 'poor image of aged care' cited as a barrier to planning.
- ACSA research indicates aged care only has a 16% 'negative' rating
 - 15% 'positive', 60% 'mixed'
 - People with direct experience (and current clients) most positive
 - Aged care staff the most negative
- ***Can't Do It Without You*** campaign

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Can enjoy the movies.
Can look my best.
Can keep healthy.
Can't do it without you.

ABENA

Interesting Links for the Future?

- Health and Aged Care – more, broader PIAC?
- Housing and Aged Care
 - impact of an ageing population on housing needs
 - Proportion of older people in housing stress has doubled in 4 yrs
 - Lots of older people in public rental housing (p251) but ‘Health condition aggravated’ a factor for only 18.5% of public rental

Interesting Links for the Future?

- Older people over represented in social housing (28% of >65s)
- ACSA's members provide 43,000 units of senior's housing cf. 42,000 units of general social housing (p230)
- Link care needs and housing status data?
- 74% of singles and 86% of couples 65+ own houses outright...
- Link with financing

Policy Questions

- Can we quantify the effect of aged care on health?
- Can we avoid tapping stored wealth?
- Should we look at other financing models – such as social insurance?
- Can we provide more diversity in care options?
- Can we better align services to people's needs?
– eg re culture? Other dimensions of diversity

Policy Questions

- Can we build a sustainable system that is focused on older people's needs?
- Services that help older people to lead satisfying and self-directed lives?
- That's aged care's contribution to Australia's welfare.
- Ageing will affect us all

Ageing is Universal

