



Australia's ageing population

We're delaying retirement and increasingly staying in our own homes.

KEY POINTS:

Living longer, with more years free of disability

- It is projected that the number of Australians aged 85 years and over will more than double, from 455,400 in 2014 to 954,600 by 2034 (a 110% increase).
- From 1998 to 2012, there was a clear trend of increasing number of years free of any disability and severe or profound core activity limitation.
- On average, both males and females aged 65 gained more years without severe or profound core activity limitation than with it – 2.3 years compared with 0.7 years for males, and 2 years compared with 0.3 years for females

Most older people don't use aged care services

- The number of older people (65 and over) using aged care services over a year rose 36% from about 642,000 in 2002–03 to just over 874,000 in 2010–11, and the majority used community care only.
- Despite this, the majority of older Australians are not using aged care services. More than two-thirds of people aged 65 and over (71%) did not use an aged care service in 2010–11.

Changing patterns in workforce participation and home ownership

- The proportion of Australians aged 55 and over who retired fell between 1997 and 2012–13 – from 49% to 26% for those aged 55–64, and from 93% to 77% for those aged 65 and over.
- For most older Australians, their home is their single biggest asset. Most Australians aged 65 and over living in households own their own home – with or without a mortgage – with the level of ownership fluctuating around 75% over the past 30 years. However, the proportion of older households who owned their homes without a mortgage gradually declined between 2002 and 2009 (from 78% to 74%).