

Working with the aged care sector – opportunities and challenges

Community Housing
Conference

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Who/What is the aged care sector?


- Aged care = residential aged + community care + flexible care (eg MPS)
- Residential services = nursing homes (high level care) + hostels (low level care)
- Community care services = home nursing, domestic assistance, MOW, community transport, social support, case management,.... CACP, EACH, NRCP + DVA
- Australian Govt funds residential + CACP + EACH + flexible care + NRCP + DVA
- AG and NSW Govt jointly fund all other community care through HACCC.

Who/What is the aged care sector?

- Ownership:
 - Charitable NGOs, strong involvement of churches
 - Local government managed
 - Private sector (both funded and non-funded)
- AIHW snapshot:

Res care	HACC	CACP	EACH	VHC	Total CC
145,000	562,000	30,000	2,000	71,000	665,000

Older peoples' preferences

- Security
- Independence and control over their lives
- Living in a familiar environment rather than moving to residential aged care
- Housing that is appropriate and suitable for their longer term needs  may include new models
- Housing that is affordable
- Access to transport, support services, family and friendship networks.

What's already happening?

- Most CHAs already have formal service agreements or partnership arrangements with community care providers or are in process of developing them.
- Most have modified their stock to accommodate disability in older tenants.
- Most have taken initiatives to house older Aboriginal people.
- Some have re-housed older tenants to better address their needs.

What's already happening?

- Many CHAs encourage tenant participation by older people & for co-ops its intrinsic.
- Most engage older tenants in community development activities.
- Many provide extra assistance to older tenants.
- Co-ops provide leading practice in self help for older tenant communities.

Common themes across sectors

- Ageing stock no longer appropriate to needs of tenants/residents
- Tenants/clients want to age in place
- Development of common access points
- Expansion mainly reliant on govt funding
- Efforts to improve tenant/client empowerment
- Challenged by people with complex needs
- Changing accountabilities around quality.

Working together: challenges

- Population ageing –
 - more rapid from 2010 as baby-boom generation begins to reach age 65
 - increase in dementia
 - compression of morbidity?
 - policy shift away from deficits/dependency to positive ageing.
- Ageing in place:
 - Most CHAs and co-ops identify features of stock particularly unsuitable for older people.
 - Demand for community care services outstrips supply.

Working together: challenges

- The bar is higher to enter residential care → need to make community living work for more.
- Exit from community housing to residential aged care – key life transition.
- Much of community care best suited to people having a carer, ie those living alone harder to support. Getting a case manager may be critical.
- Being able to communicate across the sectors:
 - Complexity of community care programs
 - Community housing viewed as special category of accommodation, special rules etc.

Working together: opportunities

- Policy settings:
 - National Rental Affordability Scheme
 - Housing NSW & OCH strategies for older people
- New work be informed by lessons from existing pilots and programs:
 - JGOS and assisted tenancies
 - HASI with mental health
 - ACHA

Working together: opportunities

- With residential providers:
 - Surplus properties + Development capital = New developments?
- With community care providers:
 - Continue building supportive environments to help older people achieve their preferences, eg improve access to existing programs
 - To expand the Transition Care Program

Working together: opportunities

- New models:
 - universal housing design
 - equity arrangements, eg shared equity
 - a Wintringham for NSW?
 - others ideas???