

# Older people and housing: the views of older people: Southern Sydney, July 2003

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**Reference:**

**Key Words:**

housing, community consultation, information access, service access, informal support, translation

**Research aim:**

Public consultations to seek the views of older people on housing issues. the Committee also commissioned the St George Migrant Resource Centre to consult on its behalf with older people from a range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. This document summarises issues highlighted by the consultations, and implications for policy and practice.

**Results/Conclusion:**

Results relevant to CALD older people: Organising home maintenance is also difficult, particularly for older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In general it was difficult for the non-English speaking participants to express a view about gaps in services as they were only familiar LACK OF INFORMATION - with the services provided by the Migrant Resource Centre - 'they did not know what they did not know'. Lack of access to information about local sources of support for older people was not confined to the non-English speaking participants. Many of the non-English speaking participants said they did not know what support or other services were available, if any, to assist them, nor how they might find out. This was difficult because they did not know much about the Australian system of social welfare and support and often lacked confidence in their ability to find things out. Among the non-English speaking participants it seemed that people had not given thought to moving house to somewhere more suitable, in part because they were unaware that more suitable housing options might exist. The only option they knew of was to move into residential aged care (a nursing home or hostel) and this was definitely not an attractive option. NEED FOR ASSISTANCE with English and 'Officialdom': The non-English speaking participants felt there needed to be more bilingual community workers to could assist them with information, but who could also act as advocates and caseworkers. A significant proportion of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, mostly recent migrants, live with younger family members. They usually have limited English language skills and are very reliant on their family members for access to transport, to information about services and for help in dealings with officialdom.

**Implications:**

**Cultural Group(s):**

CALD

**Location of study:**

New South Wales (Sydney)

**Age group:**

**Number included in study:**

Approximately 155

**Type of participants:**

Mainly older community members representative of around 400 community groups

**Research approach:**

Community consultations

**Type of data:**

Primary

**Secondary data sources used:**

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**

A distinct effort was made to get input from CALD older community members in this project