

Looking to the Future: The care and housing of older Australians

Galaxy Research: Summary of Results

The research, conducted for The Benevolent Society by independent firm Galaxy Research, involved 1,000 people across NSW, 50 years and older. The sample included Sydney and regional NSW areas, in proportion to the population.

The main findings are:

- Older Australians know enough about nursing homes to have formed the opinion that a new style of aged care accommodation is required.
- Overall, 29% of those aged 50 years and older believe that they know a lot about nursing home accommodation and a further 59% know a little. Only 12% claim to know nothing.
- Opinion is divided on nursing home accommodation, with 44% of the over 50s having a positive opinion and 43% being negative. A further 13% are uncommitted.
- Nursing home accommodation does not appeal to the baby boomer generation. As many as 75% of the over 50s would only move into a nursing home if they had no other choice. Those aged 50-59 years are the most negatively disposed to nursing homes, and those over 70 years the most positive.
- Residents of Sydney are more negatively disposed towards nursing homes than those in regional and rural areas.
- There are currently just 11% of older Australians that would 'happily' move into a nursing home in the future. A further 11% would do so reluctantly.
- While there is general consensus that nursing homes represent 'a place of last resort', people who have worked in one are the most negatively disposed to nursing home accommodation. Among this group, 83% would only move into a nursing home if they had run out of options.
- Such is the perception of nursing homes that 82% of the over 50s believe there is a need for a new style of accommodation and care for the elderly.
- The 'main benefit' of a new style of accommodation and care would be the ability to keep one's independence (34%), and being able to live close to family and friends (29%).
- Overall, 78% believe that the government must start to budget now for the increase in aged care costs that is expected to occur in the next 10-15 years.

25 August 2008