

Context

HAAG's recent research has found that over the last ten years, the housing circumstances for older Queenslanders is getting worse. The population in Queensland is ageing, with nearly 30% of the population aged over 55 years. Home ownership rates among this age group is declining and more older people are renting privately or reaching retirement age with a mortgage. Close to 60% of private renters were in low and very low income households, increasing their risk of homelessness due to high rents.

Solutions

HAAG, the Housing Older Women (HOW) Movement and other organisations have worked to highlight the needs of older people, particularly older women who are falling through the cracks of the system. As part of a suite of positive responses to address the issues, in 2022, the Queensland Government funded Footprints Community to deliver Housing Older Women Support Service (HOWSS).

There is still a clear need for more support targeted to older people. We recommend that the incoming government of Queensland:

- Increase public and community housing stock across the state with 20% ringfenced for older people over 55 years.
- Increase 'affordable housing' that's capped at 30% of the household income for older people on low incomes who are not eligible for public and community housing.
- Fund other below market rate housing options for older people including co-operative housing, low-cost retirement housing and other co-housing models.
- Embed voices of older people with lived experience and expertise into all government policy making processes.
- Increase funding and geographic spread of Housing Older Women Support Service .

¹ Housing for the Aged Action Group, Decades of Housing Decline: 2011 & 2021 Census Analysis Queensland, 2023, accessible at: <https://www.older tenants.org.au/publications/decades-of-housing-decline-2011-2021-census-analysis-queensland> Swinburne University, University of Western Sydney, Curtin University.