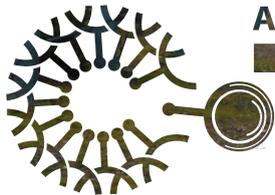


FACING the FUTURE

A BASELINE PROFILE ON OLDER TASMANIANS



Accessibility

Accessibility recognises the extent to which older Tasmanians have access to transport, generalised health and social services, aged care services and social participation.

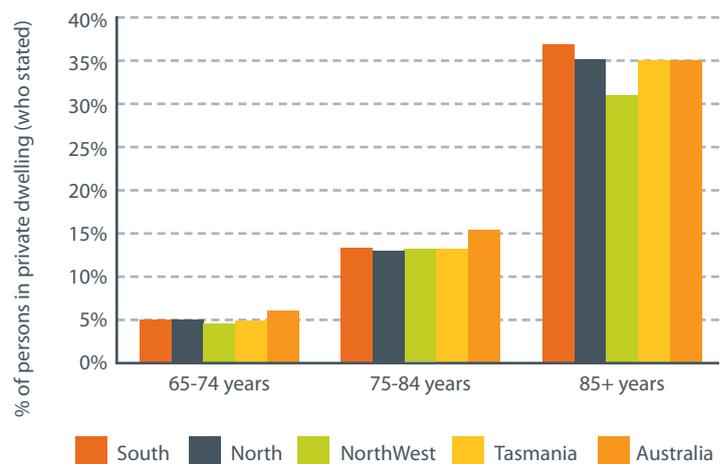
TRANSPORT

Tasmanians are generally more reliant on motor vehicles than other Australians. 46,017 or 95% of Tasmanians aged 65 to 74 years currently hold a driver's licence, with the number decreasing to 3,899 or 37% of people aged 85+ years.

The gap between males and females increases beyond 74 years, with men retaining their drivers' licences for significantly more years.

While only 5% of Tasmanians aged 65-74 years lived in a household without access to a motor vehicle, for those aged 85+ years the proportion increased to 35%.

Persons counted at home on Census night in households with no motor vehicles



Data source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011

DISABILITY ACCESS – TRANSPORT ACCESS SCHEME

77% of people who access the Transport Access Scheme are 60 years or older.

Of the members over 60 years, 15,599 are female (63.8%) and 8,865 are male (36.2%).

The Transport Access Scheme provides assistance to people who have a permanent and severe disability and is administered through the Tasmanian Government. Members of this Access Scheme are eligible for taxi concession cards, wheelchair access taxis and disability parking permits.

Want to know more? Further detail is available in the COTA Tas document: *Facing the Future – A Baseline Profile on Older Tasmanians: Chapter 3 – Accessibility.*

DISABILITY

Levels of disability begin to increase dramatically; from 10% for 70-74 year age group to 70-75% for those aged 95 years and older.

53% of Tasmanians aged 85 years and over require assistance with core activities – self-care, mobility and communication – due to disability, long-term health conditions or old age.

18% of Tasmanians needing assistance with core activities in 2011 lived alone.

Older Tasmanians (65+ years) needing assistance were more likely to live alone (22%) than those under 65 years (13%).

People in the South needing assistance and aged over 65 years were more likely to live alone than those in the North or North West.

The ABS *Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey* in 2009 estimated that 2,500 people aged 65+ years needed more assistance with core activities than was being received.

AGED CARE

The majority of older Tasmanians remain in their own homes as they age. A total of 93% of people aged 65+ years live in their own home. This decreases to 79% for people aged 80+ years.

The remaining 7% of Tasmanians aged 65+ years lived in a residential aged care facility. This number increases to 21% for Tasmanians aged 80+ years.

The propensity for Tasmanians needing assistance to live alone increases with age – 15% of the 65-74 years age group; 24% of the 75-84 years age group; rising to 27% for those aged 85 years and over require assistance.

Facing the Future was funded by the Tasmanian Government as an output of the *Inclusive Ageing: Tasmania 2012-2014 Strategy*.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Older Tasmanians were less likely to have difficulty accessing service providers than all other age groups – **28% of those aged 65-74 years and 23% of those aged 75+ years indicated that they experienced difficulty accessing service providers.** This compares to 35%-43% of other age groups.

Access to community services did not appear to be a problem for the majority of older Tasmanians aged 60+ years.

In 2011–12:

- 36% of people aged 65+ years received an aged care service, increasing to 80% for Tasmanians aged 80+ years;
- 27% of Tasmanians aged 65+ years received HACC services, increasing to 53% for Tasmanians aged 80+ years;
- 5% of Tasmanians aged 80+ years received a CACP;
- 0.7% of Tasmanians aged 80+ years received an EACH package;
- 0.7% of Tasmanians aged 80+ years received an EACHD package.

The most utilised HACC services, after assessment, were domestic assistance, client care coordination, transport and nursing care at home.

The Commonwealth Department of Social Services fund and administer a range of aged care services that are provided by a variety of organisations. Home based services are provided through the following programs: Home and Community Care (HACC), Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and Extended Aged Care at Home for people with dementia (EACHD). Residential aged care facilities provide permanent and respite accommodation to older people who require ongoing care and support. The Australian government introduced new Home Care Packages on August 1, 2013. People receiving CACP, EACH, and EACHD packages will continue to receive these services, but they will have a different name.