

Elderly prefer space

MOST elderly people live in homes that are too big for their needs.

According to a study by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, 84 per cent of home owners aged 55 and older are living in homes that are unnecessarily large.

And 90 per cent of them couldn't care less, preferring to remain in their own homes, supported if necessary by professional services.

But almost two-thirds of the study's 1600 respondents said they would sooner move to a retirement village than burden their children and 18 per cent said they would move if they developed a severe disability.

The Canadian Occupancy Standard, an internationally accepted accommodation guide, rates a three-bedroom or larger home owned by an older couple or single as being under-utilised.