Ageing well
Housing solutions for older Australians

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Housing the elderly homeless

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Wintringham provides aged care and housing services to the Elderly Homeless
Wintringham’s response

- We have become a housing provider into which we provide individually appropriate levels of support
- This support is in the main funded by Commonwealth dollars through Dept of Health and Ageing (DoHA) now known as Dept of Social Services (DSS)

Result: whole of govt across jurisdictions
Providing homeless services from within a mainstream service system that is not designed for homeless people, can be difficult.

The aged care industry is very different to the homeless service sector. It is more conservative, less innovative and with a very different client base.
What have we learnt?

- Power of definitions
  - homeless and aged vs aged and homeless

- What are the policy implications? Eligibility through definition
What have we learnt?

- All elderly people will need aged care at some stage.
- But with appropriate support most aged people do not need to enter residential aged care.
What have we learnt?

- Critical housing supply shortage. While there is no shortage of reports and policy documents, at Wintringham we see the practical impact of this acute shortage.
What have we learnt?

- Housing needs to be affordable and in right locations
- Housing needs to be adaptable
- Role of traditional forms of architecture
What have we learnt?

- Cannot rely on peak bodies
- Cannot rely on traditional welfare/church
- Governments have not responded to housing crisis (or need of supports)
What have we learnt?

- Need to embed homelessness prevention into mainstream services
- Options
- Rights
- Dignity