



ethnic
communities'
council of
victoria

CALD Communities' Older Adults Housing Needs:

Living in Communities

By

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Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

is a peak body that advocates all levels of
government on multicultural issues.

Acknowledgment

Outline

- **Demographics**
- **Challenges of Migration**
- **Difficulties of ageing and migration**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Ideal Housing for Multicultural Seniors**
- **Definitions of community**
Housing needs of ethnic seniors
 - living in communities
- **One ethno-specific housing model**

Feelings

Many older ethnic people feel

- **lost in space, time and place**

Demographics

- Ageing & multicultural population
- Demographic tidal wave in ethnic aged
- Melbourne 38% over 65 from CALD background by 2011
- Over-65ers
 - 17.7% overseas-born
 - 10.9% Australian-born
- City of Yarra 40% CALD people

Challenges of Migration

Immigrants

- built houses
- got jobs
- their children went to school
- learnt English to get by
- English limited for aged care services
- Newer arrival disconnected from people and places.
- Family structures are changing

Difficulties of Ageing

- Stay at home longer
- Need assistance
 - Communication
 - Mobility
 - Self care
- Increased CALD need for assistance
 - 9% over 50ers who speak 'English only'
 - up to 34% non-English

• (MAV Report Dec 2008)

Difficulties of Ageing and Migration

- Loss of traditional support networks
- Social isolation
- Loss of identity
- Loss of cultural contact
- Feeling placeless
- Language barriers to aged care access
- Increased psychological stress
- Increased loneliness, risk of depression
- Decreased wellbeing in general

What does “wellbeing” mean?

- **Happiness and good health**
- Community strength & wellbeing are health indicators
- Connecting with other people, place, culture and same language
 - Happier
 - Physical and emotional health improves
 - More friends
 - Somewhere to seek help & support
 - recommended for positive ageing.

Ideal Housing for Multicultural Seniors

- residential proximity to people in the same cultural group
- social contact
- publicly recognised multiculturalism and cultural diversity
- build relationships of trust outside family

Definitions of Community

- Geographic communities -live close to each other
- Communities of interest and identity
- Networks of people – teenagers
- 21st century urban village life-style

One ethno-specific housing model

- Ethno-specific aged care facility
- Independent living units
- Cluster housing around park
- Parklands and mountain views
- Bench on side of footpath
- Community centre – bilingual events
- Magpies, cats and children
- German school
- Volunteering



www.eccv.org.au

- Golden Years ethnic aged care magazine
- Summer edition Dec 2008
 - Connecting people