

National Survey of Providers of Independent Living Units for older people with relatively low incomes and low assets

Swinburne Institute for Social Research is undertaking a brief national survey of providers of Independent Living Units (ILUs) for older people. (Note: in some states ILUs are known as self-care units or self-contained units.)

The survey is being undertaken on behalf of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) in order to establish a national database of providers.

ILUs comprise an important segment of older person housing in Australia. FaHCSIA recognises that providers have made a substantial contribution to the community and wishes to understand the future needs of the sector.

The database will be used to contact organisations about future research on ILUs and ILU providers. This research will inform future policy thinking by the Australian Government in relation to the housing needs and housing options of older Australians, particularly those on low-incomes with relatively low-assets.

The national survey is being undertaken jointly with Aged and Community Services Australia Inc (ACSA) and the Council on the Ageing (COTA), with input from the Australian Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

In particular, we are interested in those **not-for-profit** organisations which are managing even one ILU that meets with the following criteria:

- The unit is occupied by an older person
- The resident either rents the unit and/or has made a capital contribution of less than \$129,000
- Capital funding for construction of the dwelling has come from sources other than a State Housing Authority. For example, self-funded by your organisation, donations, local government, direct Commonwealth funding.

The survey will seek basic information about your organisation, number of ILUs (as defined above) and their location by local government area.

It is anticipated that the information will be used for two purposes. First, it will be used to create a national database of ILU providers. This will be held by FaHCSIA and will be available to the partner organisations in the project. Second, information (without identifying organisations) will be used in a publicly available report written by the Swinburne Institute for Social Research.

The project researchers Sean McNelis and Andrea Sharam are seeking to talk with representatives of state bodies to facilitate the survey being distributed among aged care providers. The survey can be made available to participants in some combination of four ways: by mailing out a printed form, by emailing an electronic copy, by providing a web address where the survey can be completed on line or by providing a web address where the survey can be downloaded. We would like to discuss with each state, the best means of publicising and distributing the survey among aged care providers, particularly those who manage housing for older persons. Swinburne will assume any costs involved to these representatives.

We would also ask each state to nominate an ILU provider to undertake the pilot survey.

Our timelines for these various tasks are as follows:

Task	Date
Pilot survey (nominate one provider from each state)	19 th August
Discuss and agree strategy for distributing survey in each state (including agree on costs/payment)	27 th August
Distribution of survey	6 th September
Distribution of reminders	20 th September

Contact details
Sean McNelis
03 9214 8887
SMcNelis@swin.edu.au

Andrea Sharam
03 9214 5465
Email address to be notified