



Understand Me





Acknowledgement of Country

Overview



1

Introduction

Demographics, Socio-economic Context

2

Highlighting Two Issues

Ageism, Sexual Assaults

3

Improving Practices

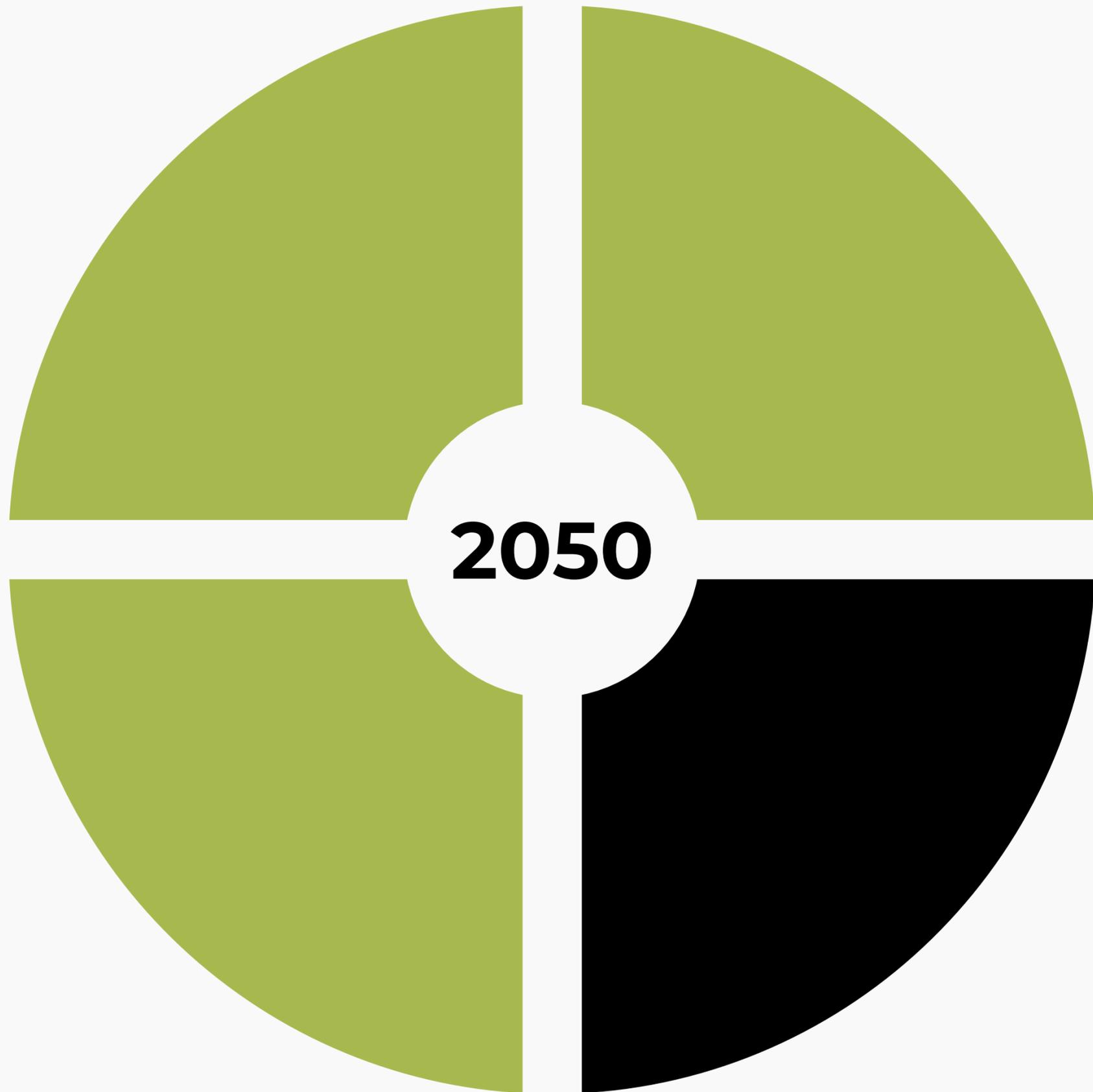
Understanding, Taking Action



Demographics

A map of Australia is shown with a light green overlay. The text '6,475,000' is written in large black font across the center of the map, and 'over 55 years' is written in a smaller black font below it.

6,475,000
over 55 years

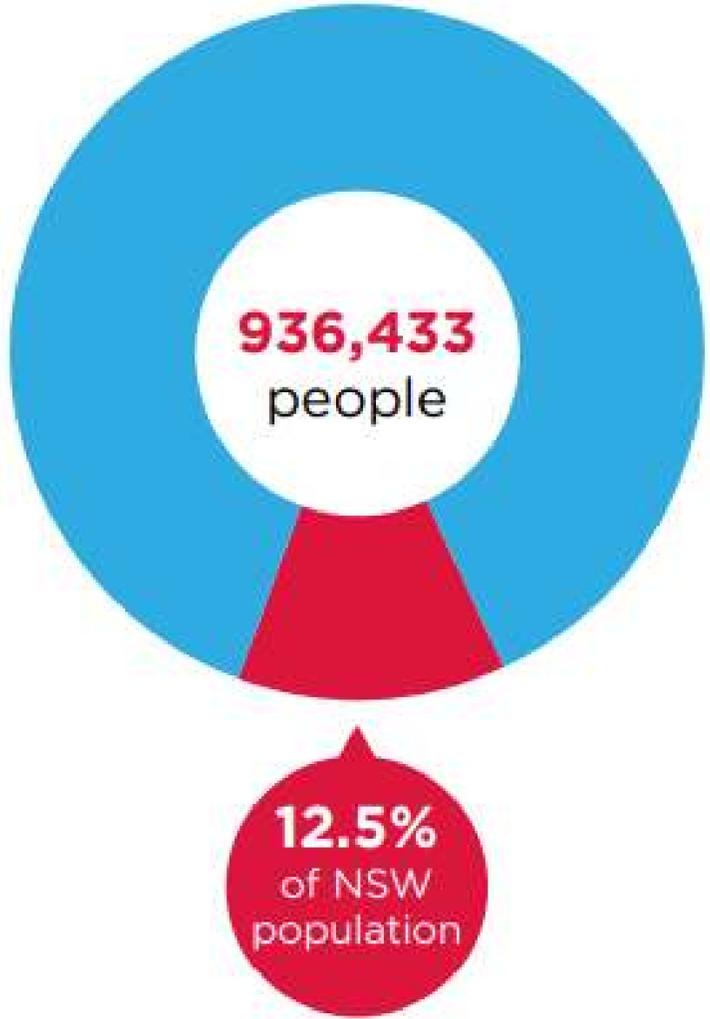


2050

A quarter of
Australia's
population will be
65 +.



Demographics



49.8%

Born outside Australia.



One in two
(49.6%)
people aged
65 years and
over has a
disability.

80%

of those aged 65 years and over
rely on the Age Pension, in part
or wholly.

Henderson Poverty Line (Sept 2021)

\$87.95/day

Single Aged Pension

\$64.28/day

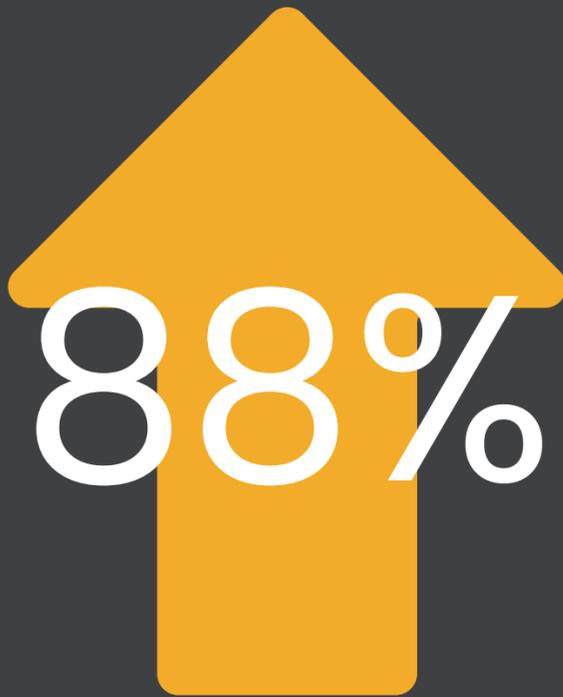
JobSeeker

\$45.90/day



500,000 older
women live in
permanent
income poverty.

The Guardian



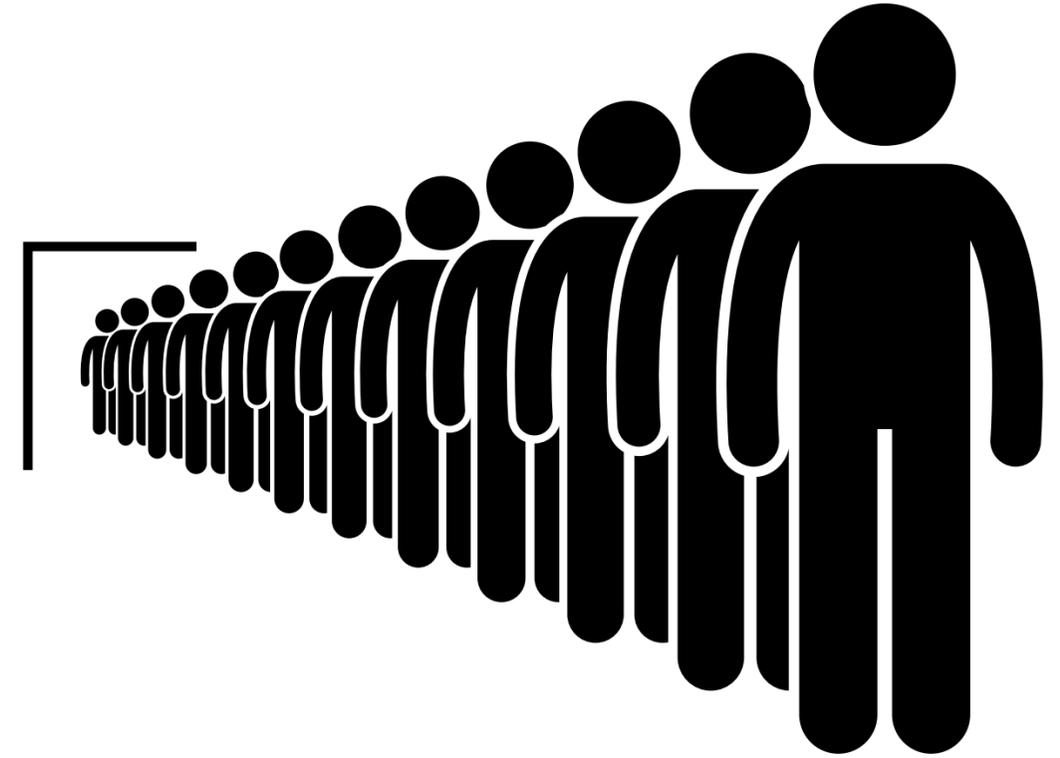
**Growth of Older Women
Over 55 Accessing
Homelessness Services
(2013/2014 - 2016/2017)**



**Half of all women aged
45 to 59 have \$8,000 or
less in their
superannuation funds**

General Waiting List

44,127



Priority Waiting List

5,801





Two Issues



Ageism



**"What can you expect
at your age?!"**

**AN INVESTIGATION OF RECENT
EXPERIENCES OF AGE
DISCRIMINATION BY OLDER
ADULTS ACCESSING HEALTH CARE**



5 Major Themes



Medical professionals not listening to concerns



Minimising and dismissing illness concerns



Patronising language



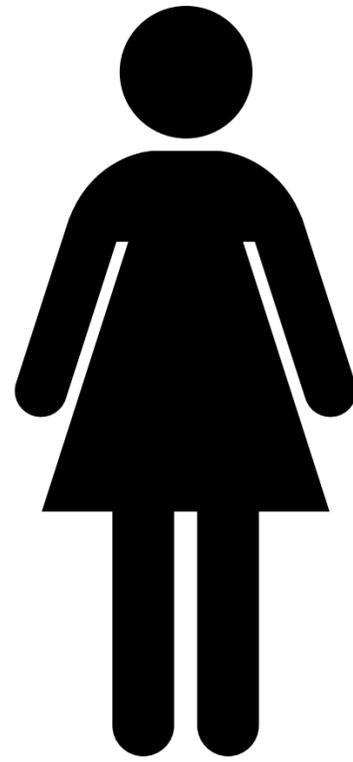
Lack of appropriate care



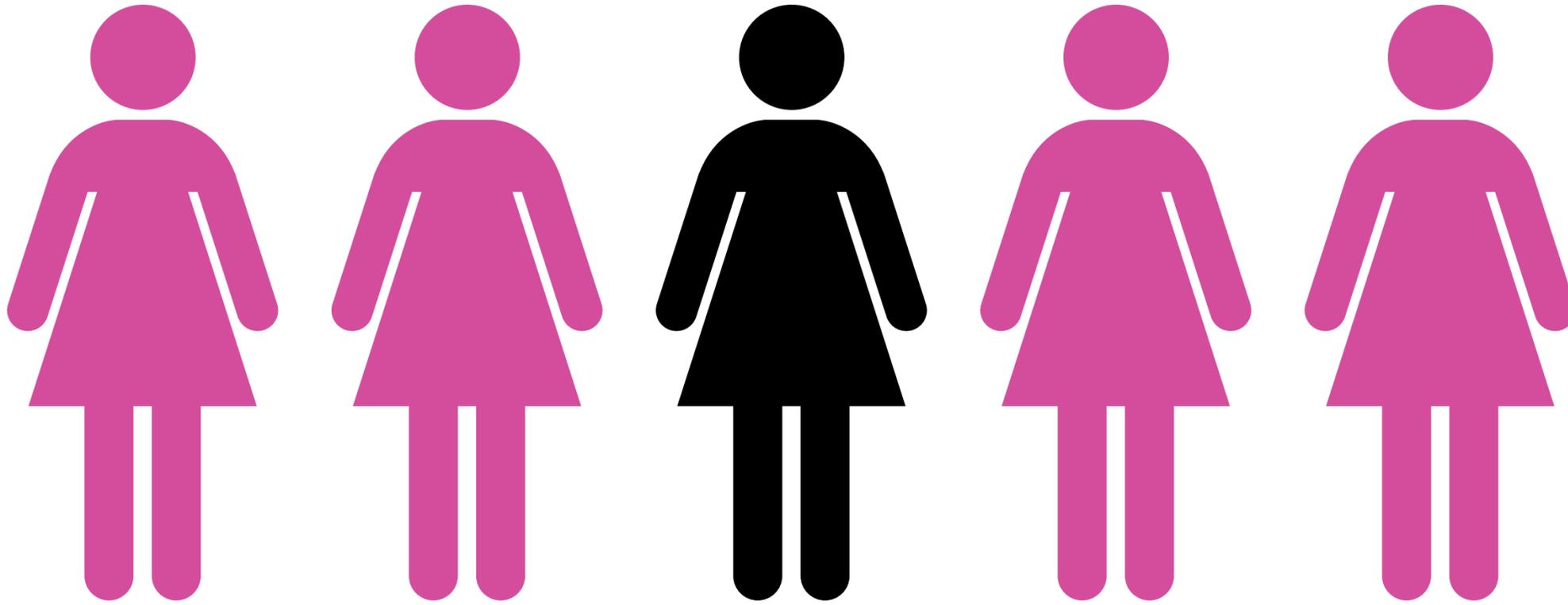
Intersectionality of various forms of discrimination



Sexual Assault



Has experienced physical and/or sexual violence
perpetrated by a man they know.



Has experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.



91%

experienced controlling behaviours



42%

experienced physical or sexual violence.



The Forgotten Australians

500,000 children placed into institutional & out-of-home care in the last century.

7,000 were child migrants

50,000 were indigenous children from the Stolen Generations

440,000 were non-indigenous children.

Aged care staff believe that sexual assault had no impact on the victim in



58%

of cases.



Improving Practices



4

Steps To Take

Become aware

Learn about ageism

Develop skills

Take action

**READY
TO LISTEN**

Building Capacity
To Deal With
Sexual Assaults

Launch on June 14th 2022

Go to OPAN Website on the Day



5

MYTHS About Sexual Assaults

1

Sexual Assault Doesn't Happen

"It's an absolute myth that older people – and older women, in particular – are not targeted by sexual predators."

"We support people impacted by sexual assault in [residential care settings] every week."

Hayley Foster, CEO, Full Stop Australia



50

Sexual Assaults in Residential
Aged Care Every Week

2

Sexual Assault Doesn't Cause Harm To Older People

"Most victim/survivors of sexual assault are people with dementia – who cannot communicate. Most victims will not ring their call bell and say '*I have been sexually assaulted*' but that doesn't mean a sexual assault hasn't occurred or that that sexual assault hasn't been devastating."

Catherine Barrett, Director, Celebrate Ageing

3

Older People disclose sexual assault because they are confused

"Dismissing sexual assault disclosures as a UTI, or delirium or resident confusing clinical care or child sexual assault with a contemporary sexual assault is harmful to the victim/survivor and enables sexual assault to continue"

Catherine Barrett, Director, Celebrate Ageing

4

Older People don't need support – because they will forget it

Having access to sexual assault counselling is an important step in recovery from sexual assault.

Residents with dementia and those who can't speak can still benefit from accessing a sexual assault counsellor.



5

We Are Lucky Sexual Assault Doesn't Happen Here

Preventing sexual assault is not about luck.

Prevention is about education and resources and opening up conversations that build capacity of staff to prevent sexual assault.

Further Reading

Forgotten Australians

<https://www.helpinghand.org.au/about-us/diversity-inclusion/forgotten-australians/>
<https://clan.org.au/resources/research/>

Ageism

<https://oldschool.info>
<https://ownnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Ageist-Sexist-Who-me-.pdf>
<https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/demographic-change-and-healthy-ageing/combating-ageism/global-report-on-ageism>
<https://ownnsw.org.au/project/ageism-in-health-care/>

Sexual Assault

<https://www.opalinstitute.org/readytolisten.html>
<https://ownnsw.org.au/project/in-her-shoes/>



Thank you



www.ownnsw.org.au