



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

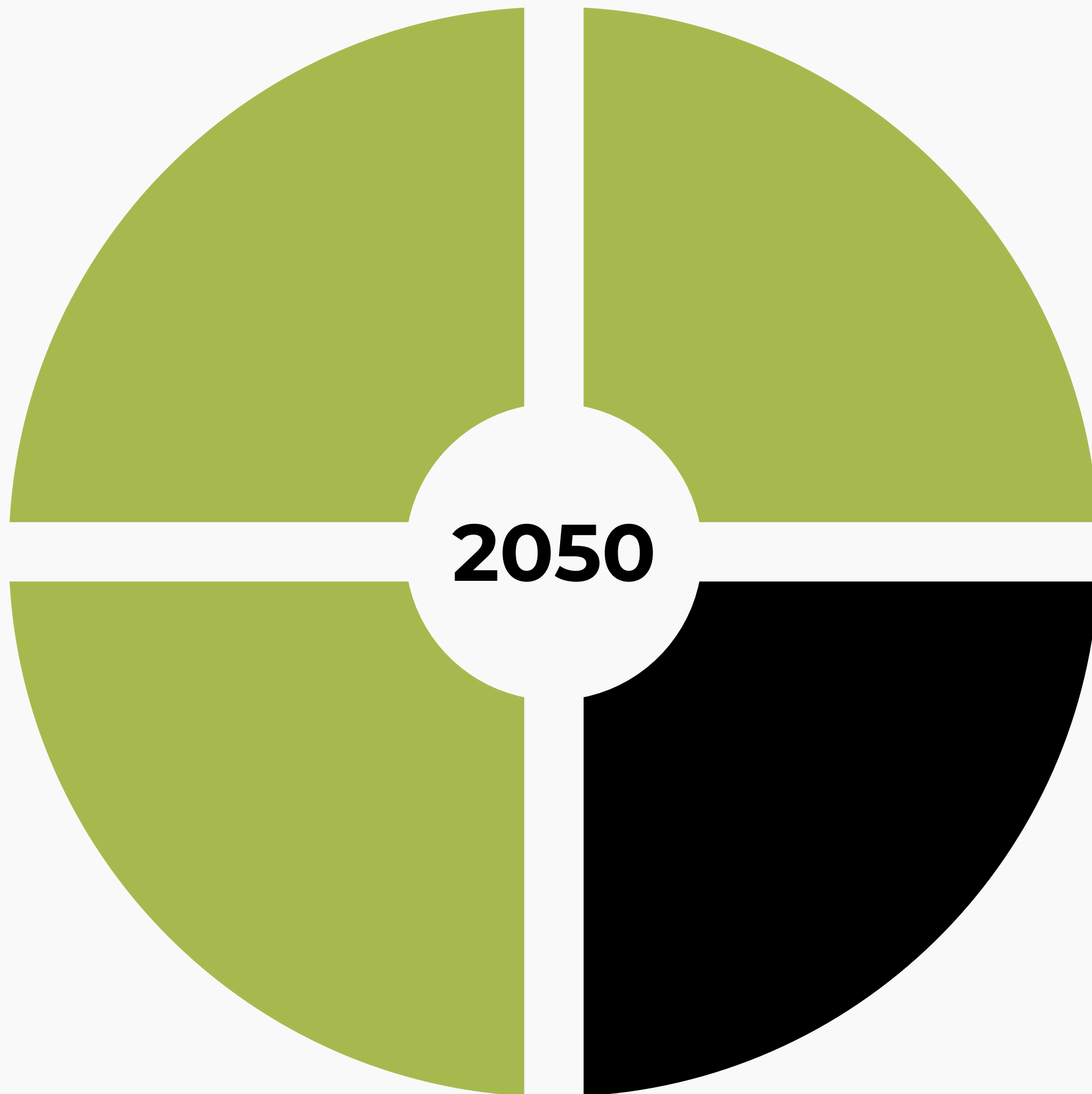


Demographics

A map of Australia is shown in a light green color. Overlaid on the map is the number '6,475,000' in a large, bold, black font. Below the number, the text 'over 55 years' is written in a smaller, black font.

6,475,000
over 55 years

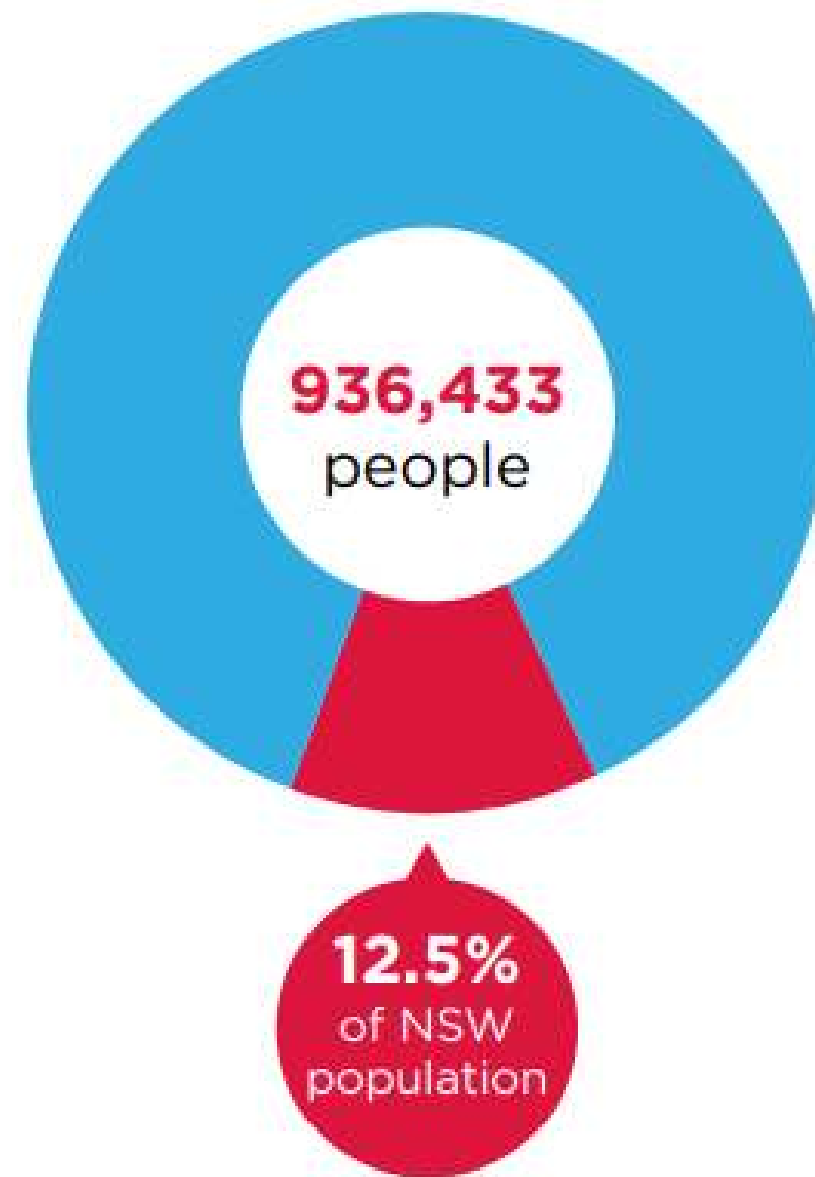
2016 Census



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

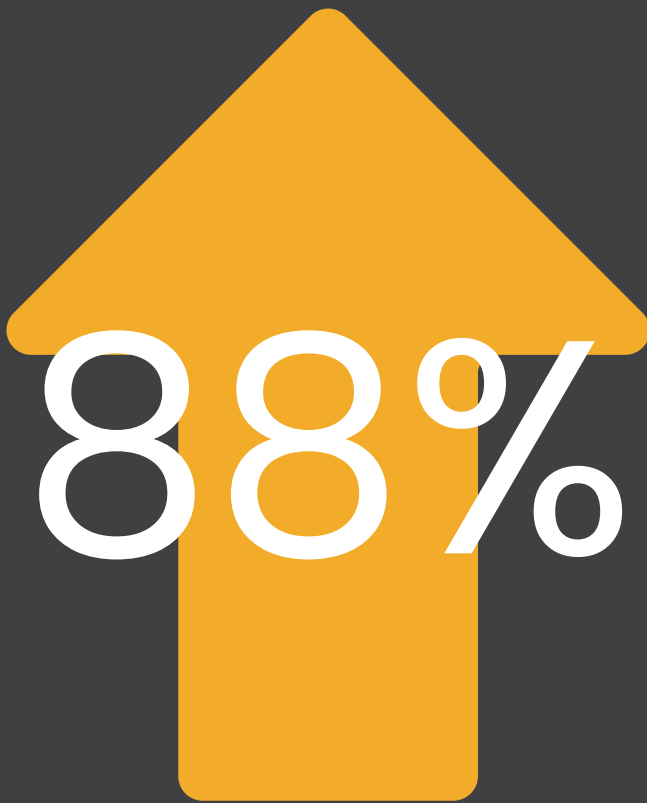
JobSeeker

\$45.90/day



500,000 older
women live in
permanent
income poverty.

The Guardian



88%

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

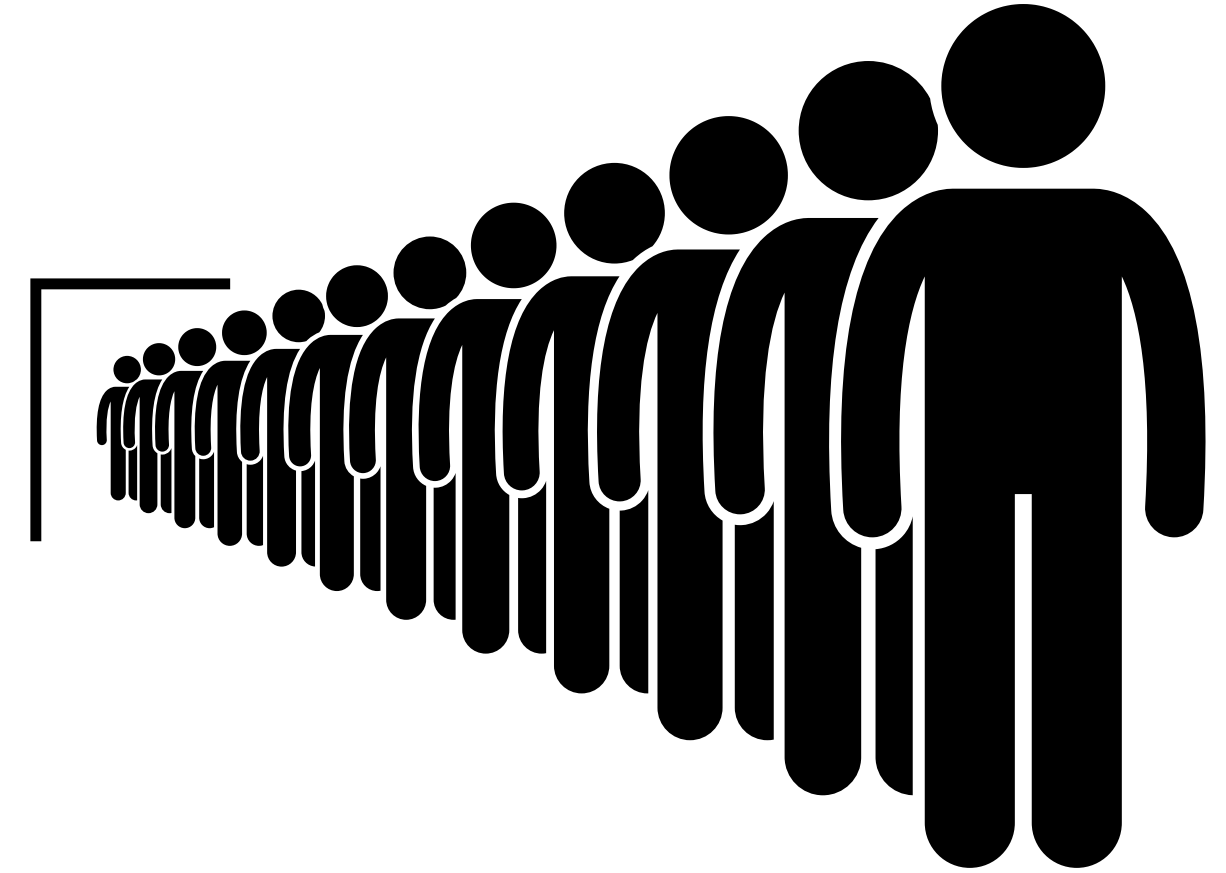


\$8000

**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



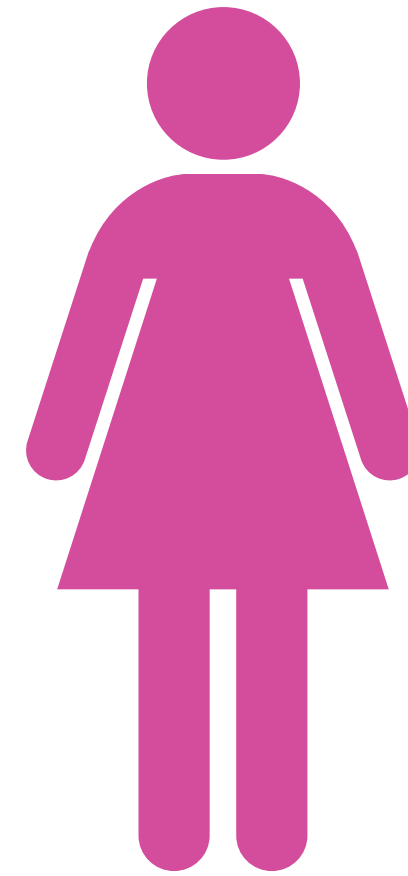
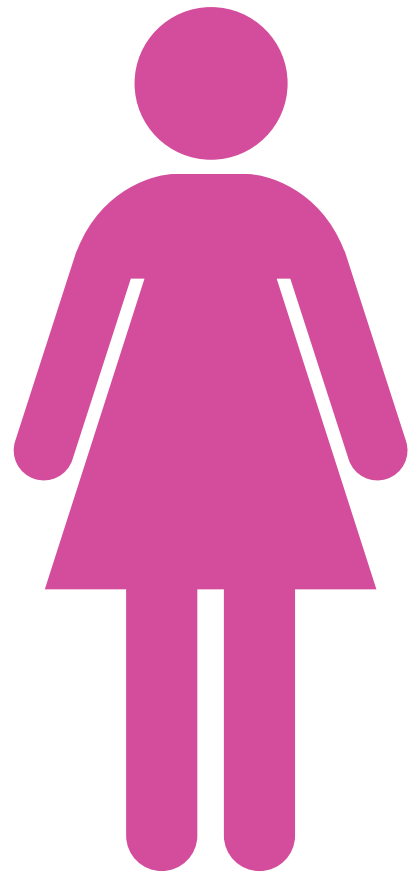
Lack of
appropriate
care



Intersectionality
of various forms
of discrimination

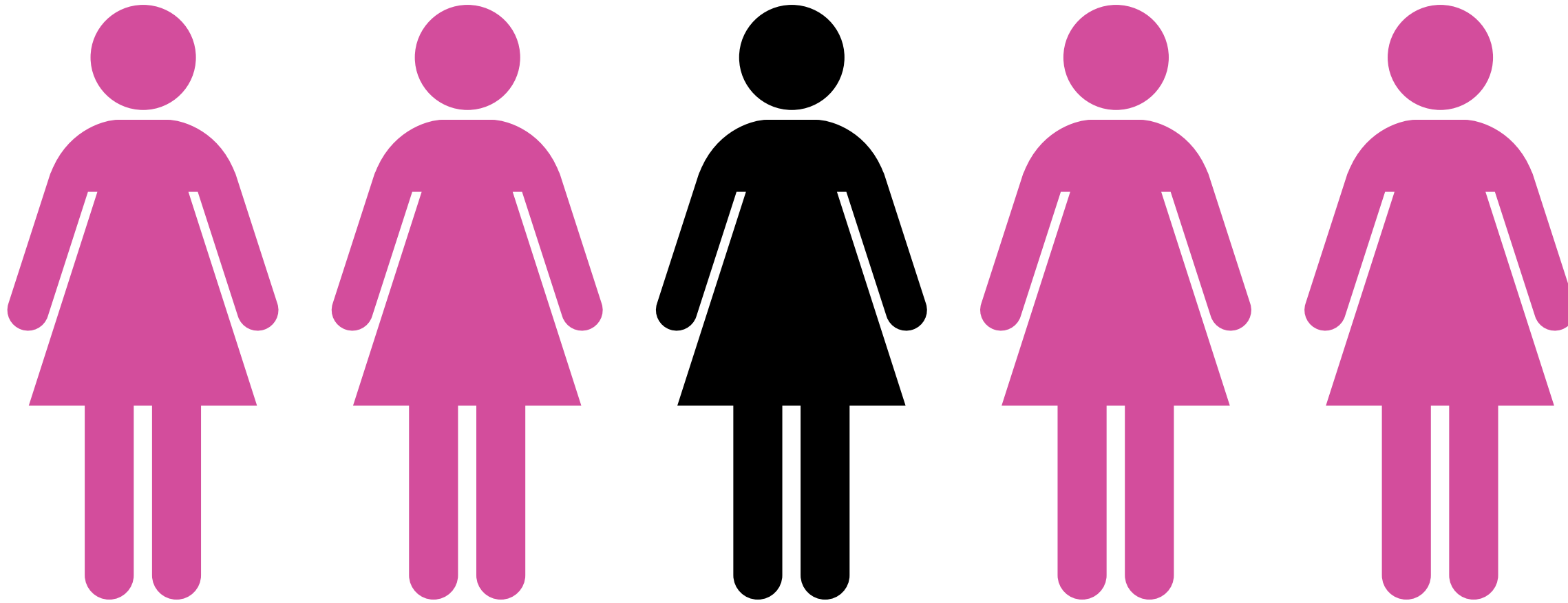


Sexual Assault



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

OUR WATCH



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

The logo consists of the words "READY" and "TO LISTEN" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The word "READY" is on the top line, and "TO LISTEN" is on the bottom line. The letter "R" in "READY" has a red square inside its counter. The letter "A" has an orange triangle inside its counter. The letter "D" has a light blue square inside its counter. The letter "O" in "TO" has a green circle inside its counter.

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.

A purple square containing the white number 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