



# Future of Home

Re-designing how  
we live as we age

“ *To stay in community means everything to me. My whole life is here, it's where we belong.* ”

To age well, we all need access to a 'good home' — it's a necessary condition in reaching our full potential and living a good life as we age.

A good home is becoming increasingly inaccessible for many people entering older age. It's time to take an integrated approach, to act together for big change.

# Home is more than a house

We've heard home is more than the financial asset or the roof over our heads.

It is the place that gives people stability and control over their lives; a community of people that know, value, need and support them; and space to find sanctuary and feel safe to express themselves.

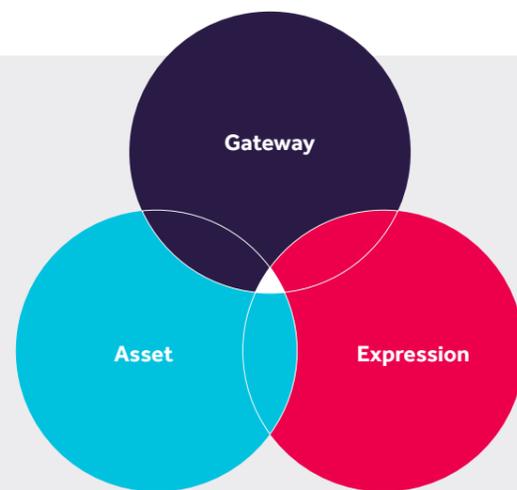
Home is a critical foundation to living the life people want as they age.

**"We want to grow old in place and we need better options to do so".**

People want to age in their homes and acknowledge this might not always be in the same house. They are seeking options beyond ageing alone in a big house, living on the edge in private rental, moving into villages only for retirees or ending life in institutionalised care. They want options that deliver on their needs and aspirations for the future.

## A good home provides more than shelter

Beyond the bricks and mortar, a good home has three critical functions in people's lives.



### ● Asset

**Rather than financial equity, the real asset is security of tenure, enabling choice and control of your living circumstances.**

Knowing you can wake up in your own home tomorrow and have control over when and where you move enables a wider sense of self-determination and self-efficacy - a feeling we're in charge of our own existence.

It prevents us feeling like the needs and decisions of others force us to live in certain ways, not of our choosing. It gives us the freedom to invest in ourselves and our surroundings.

### ● Gateway

**Home is the access point that connects us to others and our community.**

The ability to regulate the flow and quality of relationships through the home is critical to reducing loneliness and isolation.

A good home enables us to 'open the gate' for interaction and support from others. It also enables us to 'shut the gate' for time alone, or to feel safe in our own sanctuary. Gateway includes how our neighbourhood and the design of our house facilitates community connections.

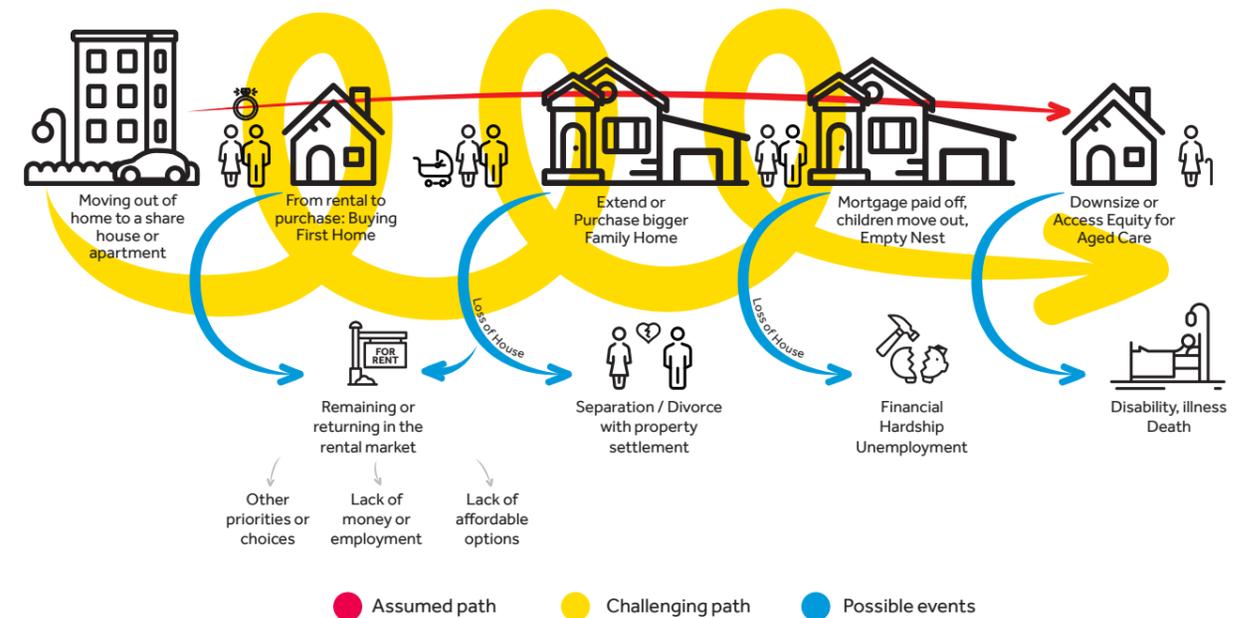
### ● Expression

**Home is where we express and evolve our identity.**

Having control over our space gives us the ability to display who we are and show our personalities - these spaces express who we've been, who we are and who we may become. A good home also enables us to do the activities and hobbies that give us meaning and purpose.

Being able to invest in a home and community enables us to form stronger and more congruent identities. Without it, we can feel lost and like we don't belong anywhere.

# The challenge



Intentionally or unintentionally, our systems are designed for a linear housing pathway. However, our lives don't always go to this plan and our home situation suffers (see diagram).

This is why we need to create multiple solutions for home as we age. And we believe older people, all levels of government and a range of sectors — health, construction, retirement living, aged care — need to be involved.

## First steps towards systems change

Alongside older people and partners we have started exploring solutions that create:

- More inclusive, accessible and sustainable models of home ownership in later life.
- Housing and neighbourhoods built and designed for liveability, connection and wellbeing as we age.
- Models of co-living and care that the wider population can get on board with.
- A rental market that emphasises security of tenure, supports self-determination and provides physical and financial sustainability.
- A social housing system that adapts to changing needs of our ageing population and supports people to age in place.

## The impact we are striving for

To create a society where all Australians live and age well in the place they choose, we believe solutions must also:

- Address ageism and create positive narratives about ageing.
- Reduce social isolation and its impact on health.
- Increase equity for single older women and create better outcomes as they age.
- Reduce our dependence on home ownership and create a market of diverse options to age well in place.

# What now?

There is no simple process, nor should we expect there to be. However, through organised collaboration we believe we can collectively experiment, learn and influence for better policy and innovation across products, services and how our communities behave.

## We are seeking:

- 1. Older people to be the drivers.** The opportunity for older people to develop their thinking, create their voice, partner in the design of what they want in their concept of home as they age.
- 2. A new national debate.** Shifting from reactive narratives like housing affordability, supply and aged care availability, to debates that focus on how we might create new possibilities for access to 'home'.
- 3. National joint ventures.** Individuals, organisations and businesses partnering with us and each other to explore, develop and scale feasible options for the future.
- 4. Demonstration in communities.** Putting new ideas for home options into practice in communities and showing that they can work sustainably.



## Contact us

Feel inspired?

Want to be involved?

Make contact, be part of things underway and get involved in changing systems.

[www.tacsi.org.au/future-of-home](http://www.tacsi.org.au/future-of-home)

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