

# KEY PRIORITIES FOR WOMEN IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

## Safety

The greatest concern women have when seeking appropriate housing for personal safety. Women across all ages in both locations often did not feel safe where they live, and they wanted to feel safe in their home.

**“ Security is the most important thing... When you're vulnerable you can tolerate a lack of outdoor space and décor if you feel safe.”**

## Independence and autonomy

Women wish to have their own space. Older women talked about the importance of having their own space to retreat to. Women with children prioritised safe spaces for children away from the 'unknowns' of strangers.

**“ I'd rather live in a smaller place alone than share with another woman.”**

## Security of tenure

Women expressed the challenge of short-term housing. Women who have a direct connection to a landlord reported that a positive relationship made all the difference. Landlords who recognised women's needs were praised.

**“ I wouldn't move somewhere else if it was only for the short-term. It would need to be a long-term arrangement.”**

## Access to community amenities and social infrastructure

Younger women emphasised the importance of safe access to a car, which ensures they can get to work and the broader community (including schools, child-care, and shopping centres).

**“ As a single mum, your car makes or breaks you getting to work.”**

Older women had a strong desire to have access to hospitals and allied health services and shopping centres, whether through a personal vehicle or public transport. They also wanted to be close to facilities that 'nurture the mind, body, and soul', including the library, theatre, and nightlife.

Women continuously expressed the desire to be close to green spaces and to have access to nature. This was true for both women with children (where access to gated playground equipment was desired) and older women seeking time in the outdoors.

**“ We need a bit of outdoor living in our part of the world... I grew up on land. We're used to having access to large open spaces. If you don't have that, it's hard.”**

## Reduced costs and financial pressures

Energy efficient internal fittings and fixtures, including heating and cooling, were emphasised as a point of concern. Women did not want to have the added financial stress of large utility bills.

**“ Less money spent on power equals more money spent on kids' food and school books. Saving also (eventually) helps buy your own house.”**



From the report **Women's Housing Needs in Regional Australia** accessible at [ywcahousing.org.au/research](http://ywcahousing.org.au/research)