



**“Next year is another ‘0’ birthday year. I don’t have super. I have to make something work because I won’t be able to afford where I live.”**

## OLDER WOMEN



**YWCA**  
**National Housing**  
Women Building Futures

***Homelessness among women over 55 is growing at a more rapid rate than for any other age cohort (31% between 2011 and 2016)<sup>19</sup>.***

### **Desire for independence**

Many older women have a strong desire to navigate their housing challenges independently and report feeling shame if they have to rely on children or family for housing.

Older women who are stressed about their housing situation are the least likely to say they need help from an organisation that helps women facing housing stress (36% of Builders and 26% of Baby Boomers say they do not need help, compared to 21% of Gen X, 18% of Gen Y, and 19% of Gen Z).

19. ABS Census, Estimating Homelessness, 2016, cat no. 2049.0 as analysed by <http://chp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Women-and-Homelessness-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

### **Risk of isolation**

The drive for self-sufficiency can lead to isolation for older women who move further away from family in order to afford housing.

A third of Baby Boomers who face housing stress have moved to a more remote or regional location to reduce this stress (31%, compared to 21% of Gen X and 17% of Gen Y). One in four Baby Boomers who face housing stress have moved further away from family and friends than they would have liked to (24%).

### **Fear and uncertainty**

Older women who feel insecure in their housing situation are fearful about the future. Their earning potential and incomes are capped, and they often have limited savings or superannuation.

As they picture the future, they recognise there may be few options for better housing, particularly if their current housing situation is unsuitable.