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**Defining community
 -the old and the new**

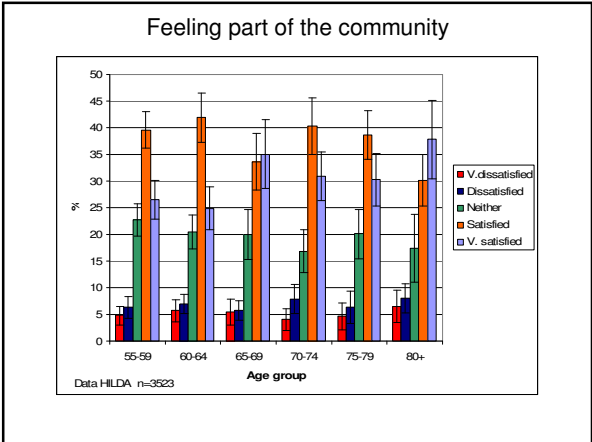
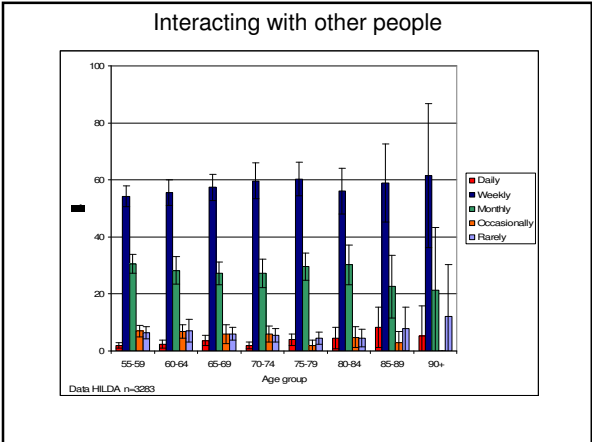
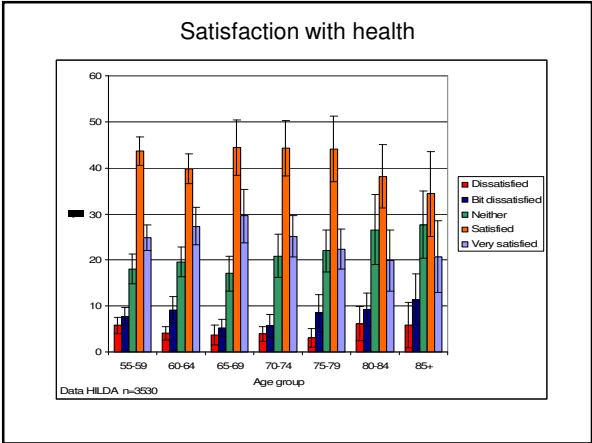
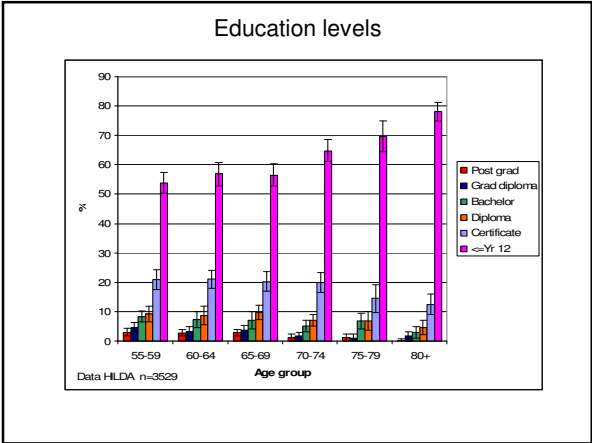
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This paper uses unit record data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. The HILDA Project was initiated and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and is managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (Melbourne Institute). The findings and views reported in this paper, however, are those of the author and should not be attributed to either FaHCSIA or the Melbourne Institute.

Ageing at home: Current older communities

Using the HILDA 2003 database: -

- Education levels
- Health satisfaction
- Interacting with other people
- Feeling part of the community



Ageing at home: older communities of the future

- There will be far more older people. The ABS projects that the over 65's will represent 25% of the population by 2056
- They have had a very different upbringing and life experiences. They have lived in a very different world. They didn't grow up in the depression, or WW2. They grew up in the self indulgent '50's, 60's and 70's. Not for them the quaint notion that to be old is to accept infirmity
- They will live in a world different from the one in which people currently age. It will be geared to meet and recognise their needs

- With more older people, all living longer, their voices will have to be heard
- With huge buying power they will expect the world to create goods appropriate for them
- Little old ladies will be buzzing around in Alfa Romeos with hydraulic lift seats
- Escalators will need to be slower
- Shelves in supermarkets will have to be within easy reach
- Shopping malls will need appropriate seating
- Mobile phones will need to be larger
- Clothes will need to be designed for the older market

- They will have different expectations. 'Dear but dodderly', will no longer apply. By reforming the definition of retirement 'what will come into our sight is a dynamic and vigorous "long-living society" instead of a distressed "ageing society"'
- Physical limitations will still occur but older people are already able to adjust to this and get on with their lives
- The ingredients for successful ageing will still need to be fulfilled. Older people will still need to have a purpose, life plan or goals for successful ageing

- They will be better educated
- They will have had better educational experiences. They are more likely to be aware of unused and untapped talents
- They may need assistance in fulfilling these talents, connecting with other like minded people, enabling them to achieve in new fields. Older people will have the opportunity to direct their efforts to that which interests them most
- They will know their rights. Legal protection from abuse will be an extension of protection applying to other age groups

- Society needs to be ready to play its part in this new world and encourage these new lifestyles. Assistance with everyday living and transport, internet, email and web search facilities should be available
- Ageing at home will have a different meaning for older people. They will have a very different lifestyle. They will be contributing to society and be recognised as an asset rather than a liability
- Some older Australians are already achieving this. Contributors to this research included Peter Sculthorpe, Bruce Petty, Ambassador for the Ageing Noeline Brown, David Stratton and 2009 Australian of the Year Mick Dodson

The new 'ageing at home'

- The later stage of life in future will be very different
- It will be as productive and fulfilling as the earlier stages
- We need to create a world which facilitates the change to ageing from liability to creativity and productivity
- Those who are involved in creating ageing at home and community programs will need to be at the forefront of these changes