

Reference Group Meeting, 14 August 2008, Sandringham

Chinese Case Study

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Characteristics

- 18 interviews conducted so far by research student, Wendy Li
- 12 in Northcote and 6 in Sandringham
- 1 couple interview, the rest individual interviews
- The majority (15) aged 65-74 years; 4 aged 75-84 years
- 11 females and 8 males
- Years in NZ: Under 5 yrs (3); 5-10 yrs (14); over 10 yrs (1)
- Living arrangements: Live with children (8); Live with spouse only (3); Live with spouse & relatives/tenants (6) Live alone (1)

About the House

- No respondent owns their home: 4 live in children's house; 8 rent from private landlord; 6 rent from HNZC
- Type of dwelling: Purpose build flat (7); Detached single-storey house (6); Semi-detached single-storey house (3); Detached house with more than 1 storey (2)
- Year in current residence: Under 5 yrs (14); 5-10 yrs (4)
- Year the house was built: 1980s and before (11); After the 80s (3); Don't know (4)
- Condition of the house: Excellent (4); Good (8); Average (5); Poor (1)
- Concerns about the house: leaking; old; cold house

Home repairs, maintenance & renovations

- No one reported house modifications or renovations over the last 12 months
- 12 reported no repair and maintenance over the last 12 months
- Of the 6 who had done repairs and maintenance:
 - 1 involved roof replacement, exterior and interior re-painting (son's home);
 - 1 roof replacement only (private landlord);
 - 1 exterior and interior repainting (HNZC);
 - 1 exterior repainting (private landlord);
 - 1 kitchen appliance replacement (HNZC);
 - 1 leaking tap (private landlord)

Comfort and safety

- 6 do not heat their home
- During winter months, the majority find their home warm enough always or most of the time; but 4 only some of the time
- Only 2 reported damp/condensation
- Only 1 ever burnt on hot water directly from taps in the home
- 4 reported ever injured at home
- No unintended fire ever
- Only 2 have an escape plan in the event of a fire in the home

Regular activities

- Most spend a lot of time at home. Common activities at home include: reading, watching TV, domestic activities, gardening, looking after grandchildren. Some are learning English
- Regular activities in the community include: shopping; participating in Chinese association activities. Some also go to church, visit friends, go swimming, play Tai Chi, & go to library.
- Things that would enable them to continue to participate in their regular activities in the community include:
 - Health;
 - Finance;
 - Transport;
 - Facilities close to home;
 - Attitude of host community;

Issues

- Supports that would help Chinese older people to age in place include:
 - Access to information
 - Language support
 - Transport
 - Chinese association
 - Friends
 - Medical (e.g. Chinese-speaking doctors)
- Relationship with family members – migration change the support networks available to older members in the family
- the growing need for state houses as the new settler communities age.