

Realising that submissions were due on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and having been away, I have been encouraged to submit a submission on Age Friendly housing by some colleagues in the industry. The notes here are based on 9 years experience in the sector and the book I co edited: "Beyond Beige: Improving architecture for older people and people with disabilities". I have tried to keep them brief.

For the most part I agree with the draft report, the main comments I would make would be to do with other aspects design for older people, beyond the Universal Design. In summary, this would include

1. Access to sun and natural light  
Evidence has been mounting that suggests, what seems self evident, that a person's surrounds do affect their well being. Most obviously this access to sun and natural light, rooms with a pleasant outlook over nature. Access to outdoors and natural ventilation also help connect people to their environment.
2. Access to private and public open space.  
The need for more age friendly housing will probably mean more efficient and smaller houses. This is not necessarily bad if it is smarter housing. Good design will make a difference and access to minimum standard of outdoor open space (both private and communal) will also be important for wellbeing.
3. Avoiding isolation and loneliness  
Recognising that old people have more time on their hands and want interaction, the provision of an environment designed to promote connection would help prevent loneliness and isolation. The creation of community and good urban design and place making techniques not only encourage social interaction but can help promote comfort and self esteem as people can identify with and feel a sense of ownership with their 'place'
4. 'Needs' based design  
If we accept that older people have needs that go beyond the basic needs for food, shelter and access and security, then we need to look at what gives people purpose and reason for living. This may be as simple as providing a dignified and non institutional environment, access to a community garden or the ability to feel connected to the world at large.

All these things can help promote age friendly housing.

**guy luscombe**

head of aged design

**RICE DAUBNEY**

ANALYSING CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING ARCHITECTURE

nominated architect: john daubney 3070 (nsw) | 1715 (qld)