

Media Release

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The average older Australian – who is she?

The average older Australian is a 75 year old Anglican woman who drives a car, votes for the Coalition and lives at home with her spouse – according to data “crunched” by the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR).

The UNSW-based CEPAR looked at the statistical profile of older Australians for the UN International Day of Older Persons.

Over three million Australians are over 65, more than the combined total populations of Perth and Adelaide, according to CEPAR Research Fellow, Rafal Chomik. “It is a very diverse group but we wanted to know what the typical older person is like,” he says.

CEPAR is Australia’s pre-eminent research centre for population ageing, informing product and service development and provision and public policy, and improving people’s wellbeing throughout their lives.

CEPAR’s analysis of the 2011 census gives an insight into the fastest growing segment of Australia’s population, as waves of post-war baby boomers pass the milestone age of 65.

CEPAR’s latest factsheet ‘*A statistical portrait of the older Australian*’ shows there are

- 400,000 Australians aged 85+ (greater than the population of Canberra)
- 28,000 Australians aged 95+ (more than the population of Alice Springs)
- and about 3000 Australian centenarians!

“While any group of such size will be diverse, the data can help profile what the ‘average’ might be. Knowing who and where older Australians are can assist with policy and planning, and service development and delivery,” says Mr Chomik.

The Factsheet shows the average older Australian

- is aged 75 years
- is female
- owns a three-bedroom home
- lives with her spouse
- drives a car
- has broadband access
- has a nursing qualification
- has a weekly income of \$200 - \$400
- can carry out her daily activities without assistance
- attends Anglican congregation
- votes for the Coalition

Concentrations of older Australians are found in all states along coastal suburbs, with particularly higher density in Port Macquarie, Forster and Banora Point in NSW, and in Reservoir, Glen Waverly and Frankston in Victoria.

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Factsheet available at: <http://cepar.edu.au/fact-sheets.aspx>