

AGEING
WELL

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talkaumātuaanga

Elder voices in a foreign land: Renting experience of Asian elders

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NZ's older Asian population

- Asian people aged 65 years or over (27,309 in 2013) comprise 5.8% of the total Asian population.
- Chinese make up 53% of the older Asian population, Indian 30% and Korean 4%.
- One in five older Asians were overseas-born and have lived in NZ for under 10 years.
- Among older Asians, new settlers – those who have lived in NZ for under 10 years – have lower level of home ownership (60%) than the NZ-born (81%) and established migrants (68%).

Case study: Participant characteristics

	N	%		N	%
Gender			Country of origin		
Male	13	41	China	8	25
Female	19	59	India	14	44
Total	32	100	Korea	10	31
Living arrangement			Age		
Live alone	10	32	60-69	9	28
Live with spouse	13	41	70-79	19	59
Live with children (& spouse)	9	28	80+	4	13
Type of renters			Arrival year in NZ		
Public housing renting	11	34	1995-1999	4	13
Private renting	14	44	2000-2009	21	66
Renting from children	7	22	2010-2018	7	22
Homeowner prior to migration			Government benefit*		
Yes	22	69	NZ pension	21	66
No	10	32	Overseas pension	8	25
Driver license			Other	6	19
Yes	9	28	None	6	19
No	23	72	* Multiple answers		

Housing satisfaction

- **Public housing**

Because it is Housing NZ, they don't throw us out but if I was renting a house outside private when those people want to sell their property then you have to move out.

- **Children's home**

We don't have any worries because it is our son's house ... We did some modifications to the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. ... My son paid for all the modifications – it's their house.

- **Private rental**

It does not make me feel like a home because this apartment is rented.

We have a sense of belonging because we can come when we want and we go when we want. There's a lot of freedom of that kind that I didn't realise this before .

Location preferences

- **Accessible bus routes**

- **Proximity to amenities**

This house is near the bus stop, shopping centre. Especially because we don't have a car, we go by bus.

- **Proximity to family and community groups**

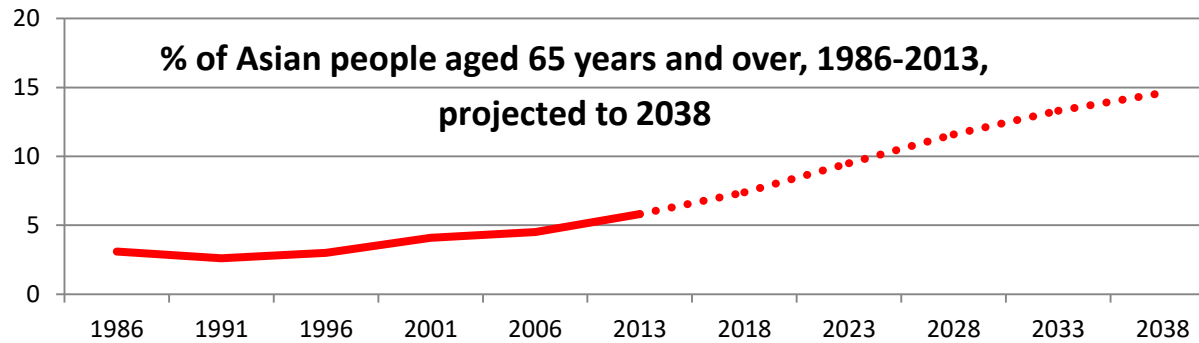
It only takes me 15 minutes on the bus to where my son lives so I can see my grandchildren when I want to or they come over.

- **Safety**

I like this house because it's in the city and it is safe ... We feel very safe. It's an apartment, it has a secure entrance.

Challenges

- Barriers – language, finance, transport
- Declining functioning – cognitive, mobility
- Intergenerational tension
- Social isolation and loneliness
- Lack of knowledge how to access services
- Cultural barriers to help seeking



Older Asian people are projected to increase to 14.6% of the total Asian population in 2038.

Need for more culturally appropriate services and community support
to enable positive ageing-in-place for this population