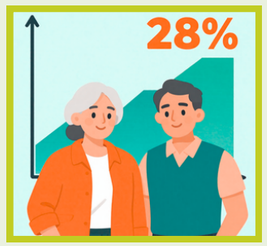
THE REAL STATE OF THE OLDER NATION

SOTON25 reveals that while many Australians report feeling more positive about their own lives, the data reveals a starkly uneven reality.



28% of Australians 50+ are wealthy.
25% of Australians 50+ are in poverty and **47%** of Australians 50+ are neither wealthy or in poverty.

Almost half of older Australians surveyed - **48%** believe things are worsening for 50+.

38% reported experiencing ageism.

38% of older Australians report experiencing one or more forms of ageism since turning 50.

76%

More than three quarters - **76%** of older Australians rated their quality of life at 7 or higher out of 10 - approaching pre covid levels.

Nearly half - **46%** of older people agreed they are less valued now than when they were younger.

BUSTING THE MYTH

The stereotype of older Australians being uniformly wealthy is not just wrong, it's fuelling ageism that hurts people of all ages, our research shows.

18% of older Australians rent.

22% of older Australians are still paying off their mortgage.

44% of older renters report housing affordability score of 7-10, compared to **82%** of outright home owners.

Long waiting lists - **55%** and cost - **56%** are the two biggest barriers to accessing health care services.

14% of older Australians surveyed have delayed or skipped medicine due to cost.

Dental is the service most reported that older Australians could not access - **36%** of those unable to access healthcare services.

There is a clear gender gap in workforce participation.

39% of women aged 50+ are in the workforce, compared to 47% of men.

This disparity continues beyond retirement age with 19% of men aged 67 or above, still working, compared to just 10% of women.

65%

65% of working age older people (50 - 66) remain in the workforce.

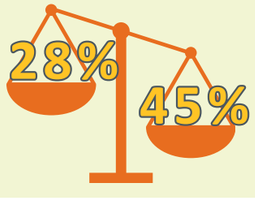
Up from **57%** in 2021.

The number of older people working is increasing, reflecting a broader trend of remaining in employment longer.

43% of surveyed participants remain in the workforce. Up from **39%** in 2023.

Ageism is a key deterrent for older Australians wanting to, or being able to re enter the workforce.

36% of surveyed partcipants say they do not want to return to the workforce due to ageism barriers.



28% of women and **45%** of men, who are fully retired and say they do not **NEED** to work. A 17% gender gap.

COTA
For older Australians

cota.org.au/SOTON25