

Does Housing Influence People's Chances of Entering Residential Care?

Hal Kendig¹ and Catherine Bridge²

¹ *University of Sydney*

² *University of New South Wales*

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The AHURI Research Project

The costs and benefits of using private housing as the ‘home base’ for care for older people: secondary data analysis

authored by

Catherine Bridge, Peter Phibbs, Hal Kendig, Mark Mathews and Brian Cooper

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Melbourne Longitudinal Surveys on Ageing

Data Base: 1994 Baseline Interviews with 1000 persons aged 65 years and over living in the community.

Biannual telephone and tracing efforts to 2006.

National Health and Medical Research Council Funding

Outcomes after 11 years to end of 2005 (preliminary analysis):

- 42 % living in the community
- 7 % living in residential care
- 50 % known to have died

(of whom 33% known to have entered residential care)

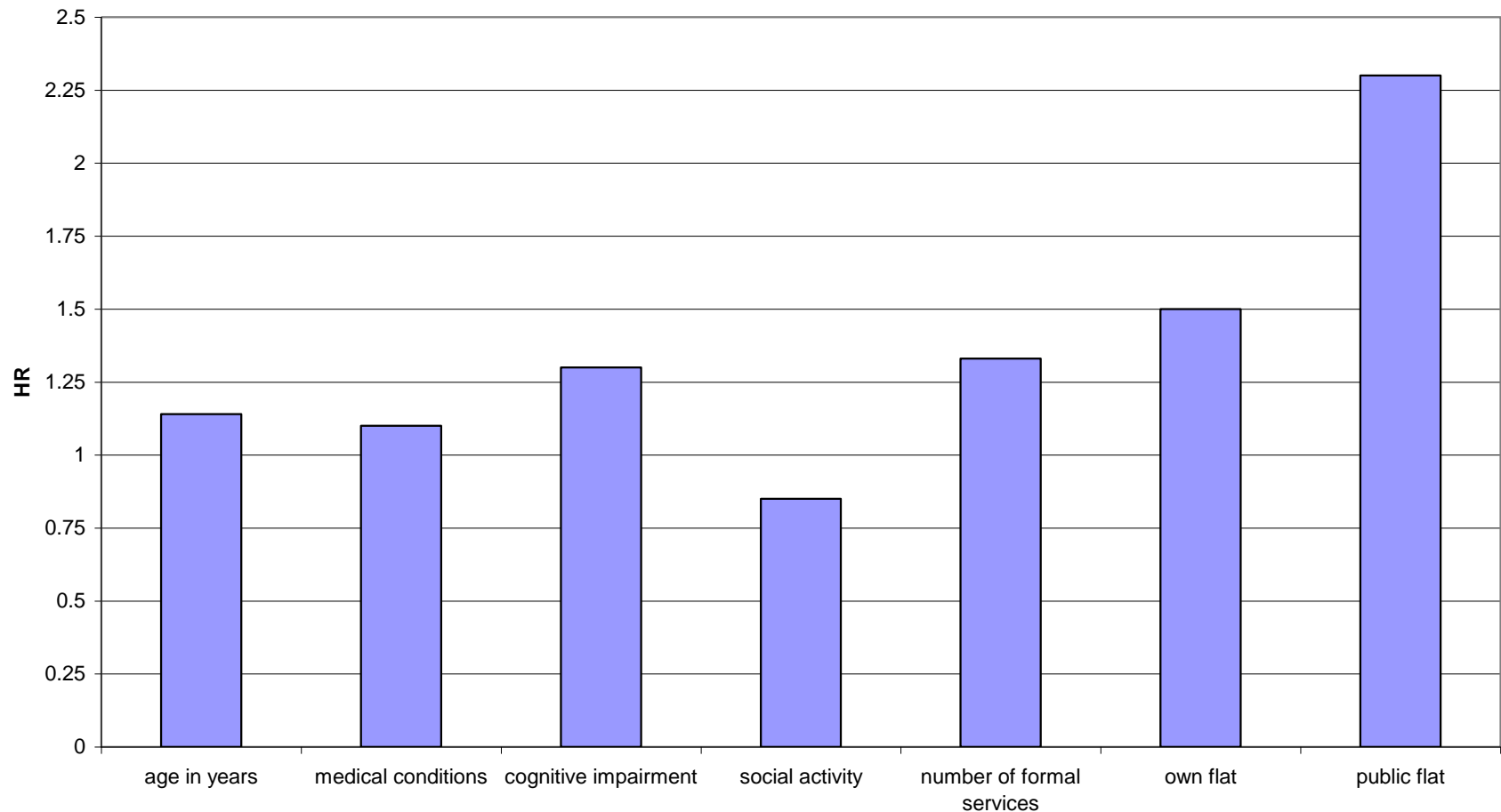
[Excludes the 18% of the sample that was lost to follow up and hence outcomes were not known]

Background variables in 1994 by subsequent entry to residential care

	Admitted to residential care (n = 187)	Not admitted to care (n = 564)	Don't know (249)
Age (mean years)	77	72	74
More medical conditions (%)	20	13	14
Higher cognitive impairment (%)	31	18	25
High formal services usage (%)	20	6	10
Own house (%)	70	<u>87</u>	78
Own flat (%)	<u>13</u>	7	6
Public rental flat (%)	<u>4</u>	1	2
Private rental flat (%)	2	1	4
Living with family/other (%)	<u>6</u>	2	4

Relative Risk of Entry to Residential Care

Cox Hazard ratios (HR) for NH admission



Variables that did not emerge as significant in the final model (after controlling for others)

- › Income
- › Marital status
- › Country of birth
- › Educational level
- › Self rated health
- › Functional capacities
- › Psychological well being

Caution in interpretation

small sample sizes
potential confounding

Possible explanations

move from owned house to owned flat (adaptation to declining capacities?)
public housing flats – socio-economic vulnerability and living alone
services directed to those with the greatest need (targeted well)

Questions:

Can supportive housing enable people to stay at home longer?
 need to examine accommodation built for this purpose (eg Apartments for Life)
 need research across existing supportive housing compared to community
Can services enable people to remain in the community longer?
 again specialised studies

A key policy issue: ‘unbundle’ accommodation and care for more choice and efficacy
