



Retirement and Aged Care Survey Results

Welcome to the first edition of the Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group newsletter which will be issued on a quarterly basis to keep you informed.

The two community forums held by the Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group at the Mareeba Bowls Club and the Atherton International Club in February were a great success, with 205 people attending in all.

We would like to thank all those who attended the forums and completed the questionnaires. The results are now in! You can read a summary of the results in

this newsletter and if you'd like to read the full report you can find it on the internet (see where on the back page) or you can look at a copy in your local library.

The Action Group will now use the results of the survey to show that there is a substantial demand for retirement village living with appropriate aged care facilities on the Tablelands and that this represents an opportunity to be fulfilled.



■ *Community members at the Atherton forum.*

Tablelanders want Continuing Care Community

The most popular Retirement Living Option was a Continuing Care Retirement Community with self-care, low-care and high-care all on the one site (Option 7), chosen by 50% of respondents.

The next most popular option was to live in an Independent Living Unit in a Retirement Village, with 15% choosing a retirement village that has residential aged care close by (Option 5) and 15%

choosing a retirement village without aged care close by (Option 3).

10% of respondents were keen to live in a Lifestyle Resort for the Over 50s (Option 2) and 8% in an Independent Living Unit in a Cluster (Option 1).

For 13% of survey respondents, a Residential Aged Care Facility offering low and high care was the top priority.

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Special points of interest

- 137 Questionnaires were returned
- 65 Questionnaires were from couples
- 69 Questionnaires were from singles
- 134 households want to live in a retirement or aged care complex on the Tablelands
- 50% want to live in a Continuing Care Retirement Community with self-care, low-care and high-care all on the one site

What type of Retirement Complex do people want?

Seven different retirement living options were presented at the forum and in the questionnaire for people to choose from. These options have been ranked according to first preference of respondents:



Option 7 – Continuing care retirement community with self-care, low-care and high-care all on one site (50%)

Option 5 – Independent living unit in retirement village with residential aged care facility close by (15%)

Option 3 – Self-care villa or unit in a managed retirement village with communal facilities (15%)

Option 6 – Residential aged care facility offering low care and high care (13%)

Option 2 – A self-care villa in a managed lifestyle resort for the over 50s with some communal facilities (10%)

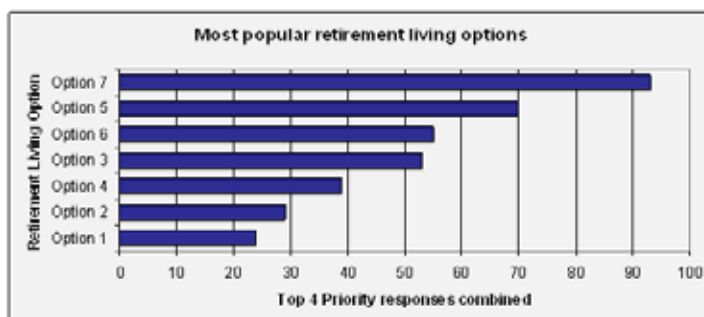
Option 1 – An independent living unit in a cluster, with no communal facilities (8%)

Option 4 – A serviced unit or apartment in a managed retirement village with communal facilities (1%)

Residential Aged Care is a high priority

When the top four preferences of respondents were combined, options that included residential aged care came out in front. **Option 7** – a continuing care retirement community with self-care, low-care and high-care all on the one site – was included in the top four preferences of 93 respondents. **Option 5** – a retirement village with aged care nearby – was chosen by 70 respondents and **Option 6** – a residential aged care facility with low and high care – was chosen by 55 respondents.

■ *When the top four preferences of respondents were combined, options that included residential aged care came out in front.*



Services and Amenities

The survey found that the most popular services and amenities to have available in or near to a retirement or aged care facility were:

- A village bus: this was essential to 71 (53%) of respondents and desirable to 44 (33%).
- A 24 hour medical alarm system was very important to respondents with 80 (60%) saying this was essential to them and 29 (22%) that it was desirable.
- A medical centre or doctor's surgery was most frequently ticked as an essential facility to have in close proximity (60% of respondents), followed by a hospital (52%) and public transport (46%) and then residential aged care facility (41%).



■ *A village bus was considered essential.*

Location



■ **Atherton emerged as the first preference for the location of a retirement complex or aged care facility.**

The most popular first preference of location for a retirement complex or aged care facility was Atherton (59), followed by Mareeba (47) and then Malanda (10).

When respondents' top four location preferences were combined, Atherton was the most popular (98), followed by Tolga (64) and then Mareeba (59).

Yungaburra was the fourth most popular (38) when top four preferences were combined, Malanda fifth (32) and Kuranda sixth (21).

When do people want to move in?

- **14% of respondents are ready to move to a retirement complex or aged care facility now or within the next 12 months**
- **22% respondents want to move in 1 to 5 years' time**
- **21% in 5 to 10 years' time**
- **19% in 10 to 15 years' time**
- **3% in 20 years' time**

Financial Matters

In terms of financing their retirement living options, 77% of respondents own their current home and 78% of these would be willing to sell this property.

Just over one-third of respondents are willing to pay approximately \$250,000 for retirement or aged care accommodation and just under a third are willing to spend up to \$350,000.

- **43% of questionnaire respondents said they would prefer to own a unit in a retirement complex**
- **27% would prefer to rent**
- **10% would prefer to lease a unit.**



What Type of Unit?



■ **Carinya Home for the Aged, Atherton: Independent living units.**

Most respondents (60%) preferred a stand-alone detached villa, but many (50%) did not mind a semi-detached unit.

Two-bedroom units were most preferred (60%), followed by one-bedroom (30%) and then three-bedrooms (17%), in a retirement complex.

A single room with ensuite bathroom was the most popular type of aged care room.

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The Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Action Group was formed in July 2009 in response to community demand for alternative accommodation options for Tablelands residents.

It is a community-based group consisting of local representatives of three seniors associations as well as representatives of Tablelands Regional Council, Tablelands Futures Corporation and Advance Cairns.

Members are:

- Bev Prescott, Association of Independent Retirees
- Derek Lamperd, Probus
- Jan Hampton, Queensland Country Womens Association
- Anne Cunningham-Reid, Social and Community Planner, Tablelands Regional Council
- Michael Lawrence, Director, Tablelands Futures Corporation
- Sue Fairley
- Margaret Darveniza, Regional Development Officer, Advance Cairns

■ **View the full report at <http://community.trc.qld.gov.au/resource/3> or at <http://www.thinktnq.com.au/research/8/6/doc-72>**

Moving Forward – the Next Step

Having established the needs and preferences of Tablelands residents in terms of the provision of retirement and aged care accommodation, the Action Group will move on to use this information to develop a case for increased development of infrastructure and services.

A profile of the current retirement and aged care accommodation supply will be compared to the demand data and this will guide an investment attraction strategy targeting both local and inter-regional developers and providers

The information collected through the forums and the questionnaire will be also be useful to social planners and lobbyists seeking public and private support and government policy change

The Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group has established relationships with several developers across the region and has been liaising closely with entrepreneurs and all levels of government in order to facilitate an increase in service provision.

There are several projects on the drawing board at the



■ **Bev Prescott, Derek Lamperd and Jan Hampton.**

moment that are looking very promising. The group are hopeful that planned reforms to the aged care industry and an improved economic climate will see positive change for the Tablelands.