

# Older Persons Giving Care

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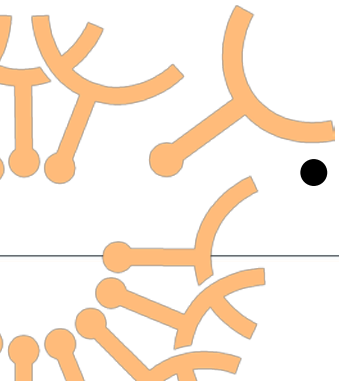


The Older Person Today: giving and receiving care  
Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics  
7 October 2015

# CONTEXT

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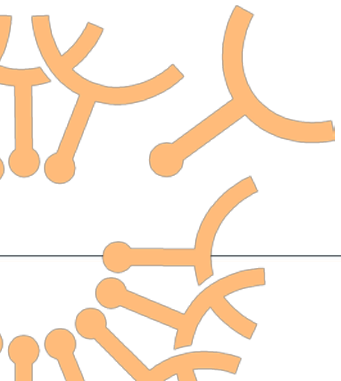
- **COTA Australia**
  - Policy and advocacy for older Australians
  - Broadest possible scope of engagement
- **National Aged Care Alliance**
  - Providers, consumers, unions, professionals
  - Blueprint 1 and Blueprint 2
- **Aged Care Sector Committee**
  - Statement of principles
- **Changing political environment**



# DEFINITIONS

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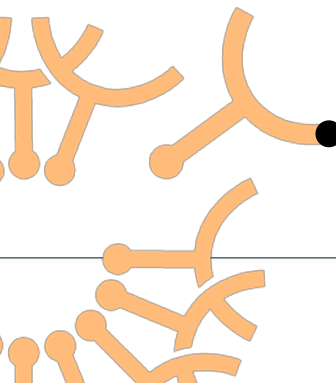
- **Older persons**
  - Over 50, over 60, over 65, over 70, over ...?
- **Aged care**
  - Formal system of support for older people requiring care
- **Carers – primary**
- **Carers – informal = family and friends**
- **Carers – paid workforce**
- **Ageism and age discrimination**



# AGEISM

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- **The stereotyping or discrimination of a person or group of people because of their age**
- **Ageist attitudes – both positive and negative – affect how older people view themselves and what ‘we’ expect of them**
- **IDOP Breakfast panel discussion on “60: there’s still work to do”**
- **The challenge of the unique individual**

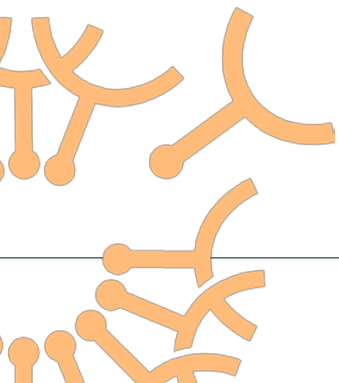


# SUMMARY STATS

- **By 2052 – 85+ men ↑ x 7, women ↑ x 4**
- **By 2054 – 65+ expected to double**
- **1 in 3 people 55+ are in the workforce**
- **25% of people 50+ have experienced workplace discrimination**
- **Jobs growth in ‘aged & disabled carers’ > 3% per year over 10 years = >55,000 FTE**
- **>80,000 people 50+ are unemployed**

# DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

- **Key aspects of demographic change (Hugo)**
  - Population aged 65+ will increase by 86% between 2011 and 2031
  - Percentage aged 65+ will increase from 13.8% to 19.9%
- **Key impacts of demographic change**
  - ⤴ life expectancy = more available to care?
  - ⤴ women in paid workforce = less carers?
  - ⤴ older people working = less carers?
  - Also lead to reduced volunteering
  - Flexible working arrangements allow work + care

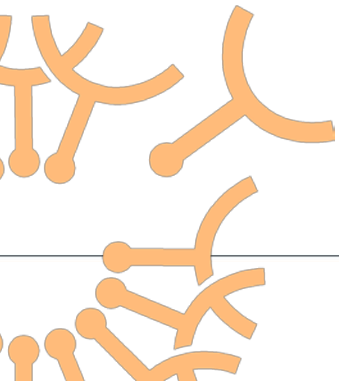


# CARE GIVING ROLES

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**Older persons can and do provide:**

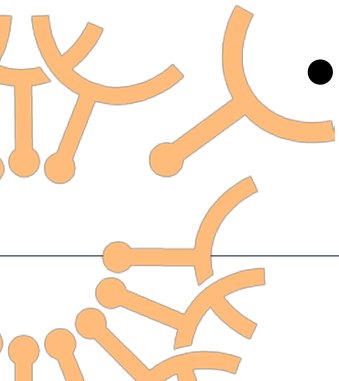
- **Family and informal care**
- **Volunteer services – multiple care settings**
- **Grandparent care including child care**
- **Paid workforce caring roles – from professional to entry level and all between**
- **Peer support**
- **Friendship**
- **Other?**



# THE CARING WORKFORCE

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- **Combination of aged care reform & NDIS adding pressure to the paid care workforce**
  - 89% residential direct care staff are female
  - 90%+ home care staff are female
  - In both settings staff are older than the Australian average and are themselves ageing
  - Increasing acuity of service users/residents
- **Shortages exist now – expected to increase**
- **Challenges of new models of care – wellness and reablement, technology, training**

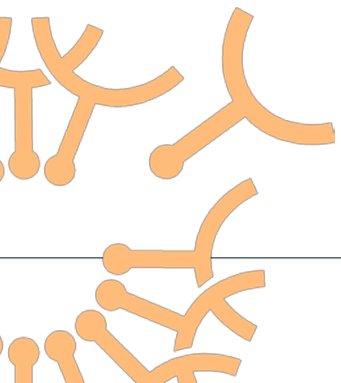




# THE VALUE OF 'CARE'

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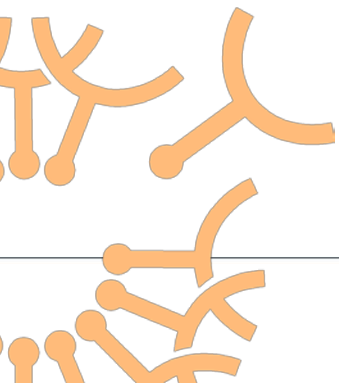
- **To Australian society**
  - If 5% more people over 55 had jobs the economy would be \$48b better off
  - Total replacement cost of informal care in aged care in 2015 estimated as \$60.3b – 3.8% GDP
  - Informal (aged care) carers provide an estimated 1.9b hours of care in 2015
  - Grandparents' provided child care to 837,000 children in 2014 – more than formal child care
  - Every \$1 invested in volunteering returns \$4 in benefits to the community



# THE VALUE OF 'CARE'

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- **To and for older people giving care**
  - Benefits to individuals, workplaces, the community and the economy
  - Improved quality of life
  - Perception that informal care = better care
  - Tasmanian volunteer study – people identified wellbeing benefit of \$651m
  - In 2006, 5.4m volunteers provided services equal to 454,000 full time jobs
  - Other suggestions?



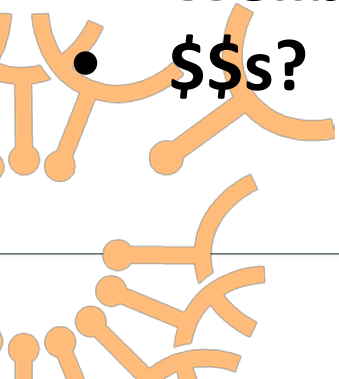
# A CARING CASE STUDY

## Roles

- Family carer
- Grandparent
- Great grandparent
- Volunteer
- Driver

## Value

- Wellbeing – self
- Wellbeing – others
- \$\$\$?



# QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

- Judy Gregurke, National Manager Aged Care Reform – [jgregurke@cota.org.au](mailto:jgregurke@cota.org.au) or 0408 694 317
- COTA Australia for more about COTA Australia and COTAs in all states and territories – [www.cota.org.au](http://www.cota.org.au)
- [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) for all aged care information
- National Aged Care Alliance Blueprints for reform – [www.naca.asn.au](http://www.naca.asn.au)

