



# EDSN Disability and Ageing

Findings from the Organisational Survey

October 2014



# Purpose / Aim

- Ageing for people with a disability has been a reported concern of many of the EDSN member organisations. Of particular concern is the ability to meet the needs of older people with a disability or the needs of individuals where early onset of ageing is apparent within the current and proposed service models.
- The EDSN has formed an Ageing and Disability Working Group to develop the following survey to capture the extent of the issues facing services. This information will be presented to DHS and NDS as well as form the basis of advocacy within the region to ensure that the needs of older people with a disability are considered.



# Research Method & Limitations

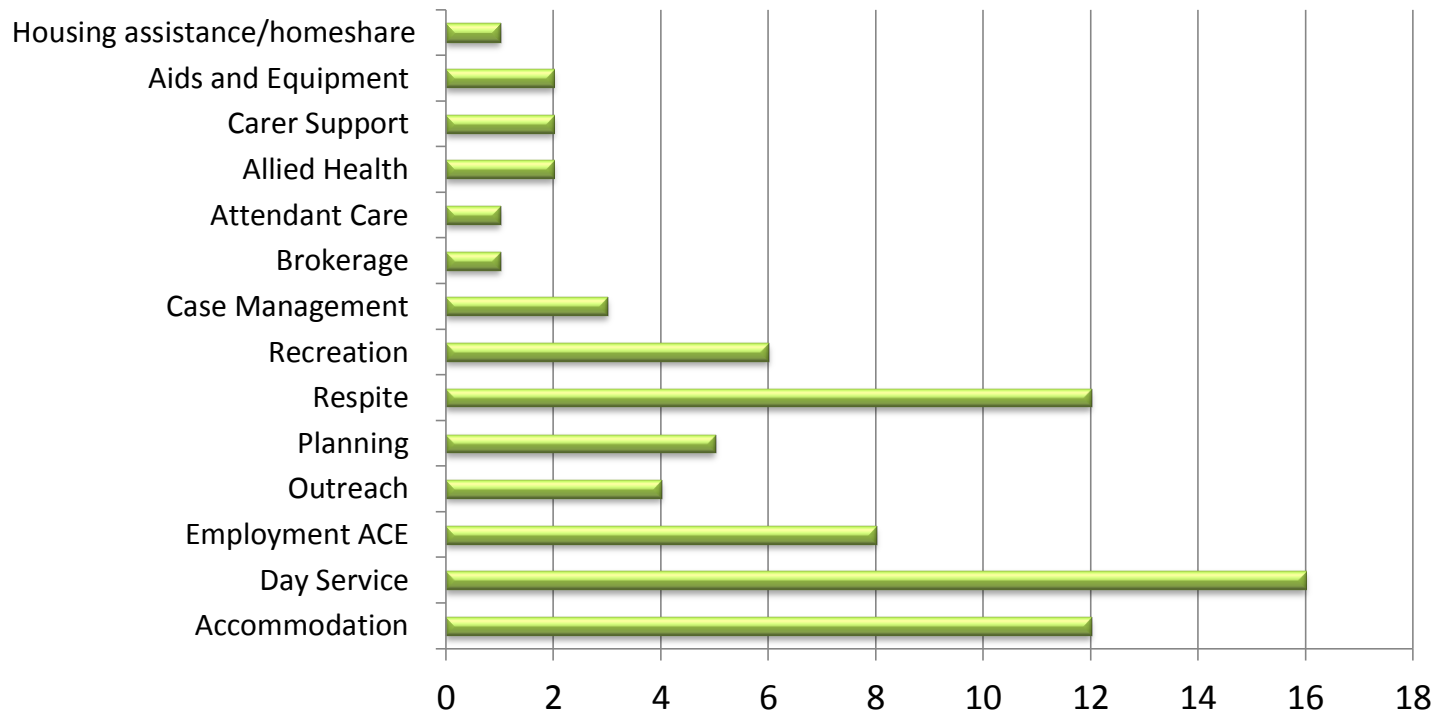
- To explore the ageing related issues facing disability service organisations a survey was circulated to all EDSN members in the EMR.
- 32 Responses received from 120 organisations registered with EDSN

## Limitations of Responses

- Not all respondents answered all questions
- It is not clear if multiple people responded from a single organisation
- Responses may include statewide numbers rather than numbers for the EMR only

# Services Provided

- Day services, accommodation and respite services were the most frequent services offered by participating organisations
- The less frequent services were brokerage, attendant care and housing assistance/home share.



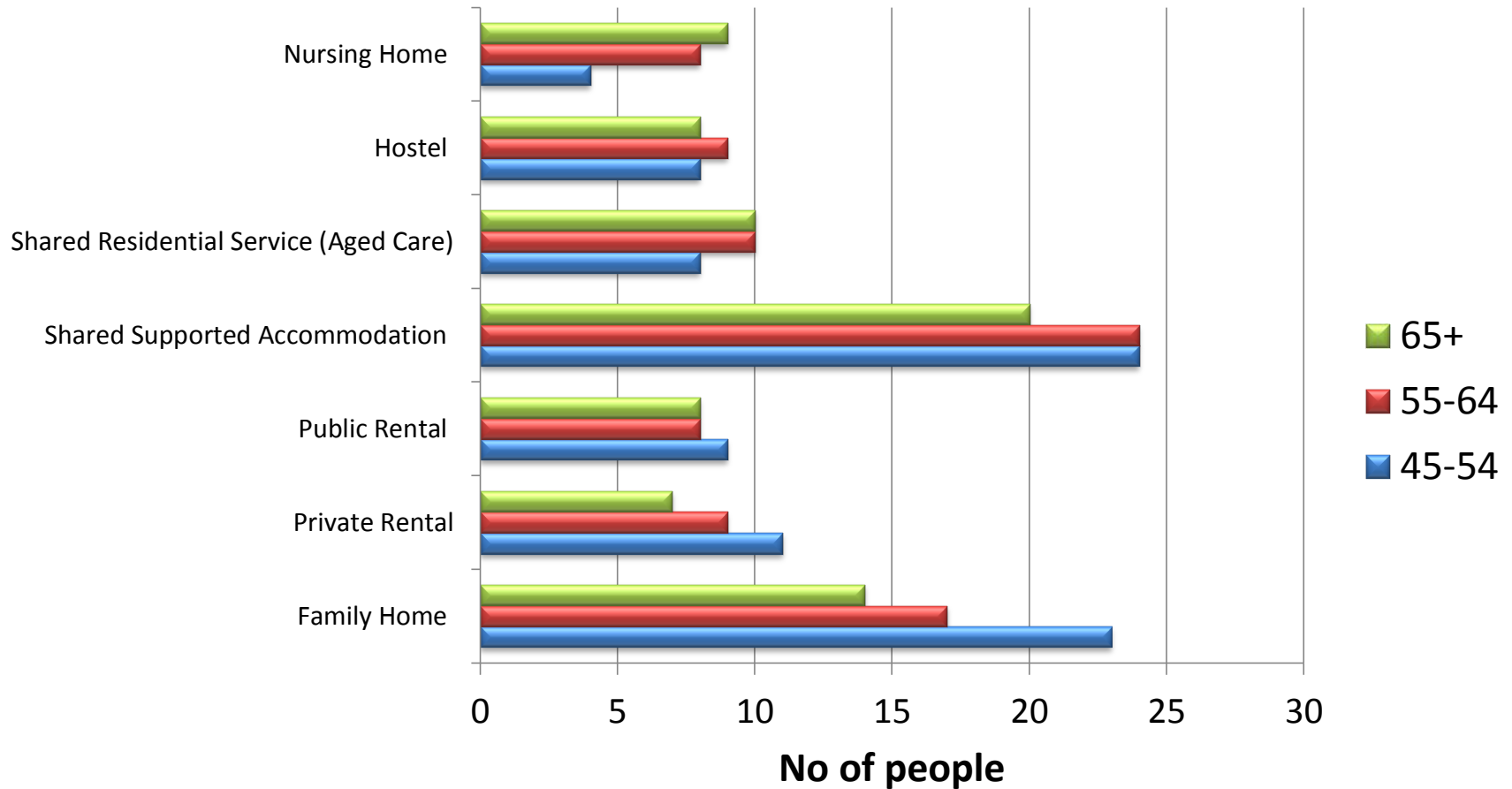
# Number of People Supported

- 6135 people supported through the respondents organisations
- More people aged 65+ are supported than the other age groups
- Numbers may reflect whole of organisation statistics rather than EMR specific
  
- People aged between 45-54 years
  - 1869 people supported through organisations
  - Range 3- 400 people supported through the organisations
  - Average 64 per organisation
  
- People aged 55-64 years
  - 2043 people supported through organisations
  - Range 1 -400 people supported through the organisations
  - Average 70 people per organisation
  
- People aged 65+
  - 2223 people supported through organisations
  - Range 1- 400 people supported through the organisations
  - Average 77 people per organisation

# Where do people live?

- 45 -54 years olds more likely to live in the family home, private and public rentals than people in the older age categories
- Older people more likely to live in aged care services however the findings suggest that people with a disability are prematurely entering aged care services such as hostels, shared residential services and nursing homes.
- Responses to other indicate confusion with terminology, community residential units and group homes are referred to by DHS as Shared Supported Accommodation.
- Comments indicate that 2 people are residing in Respite Accommodation however no age classification was provided.

# Where do people live?



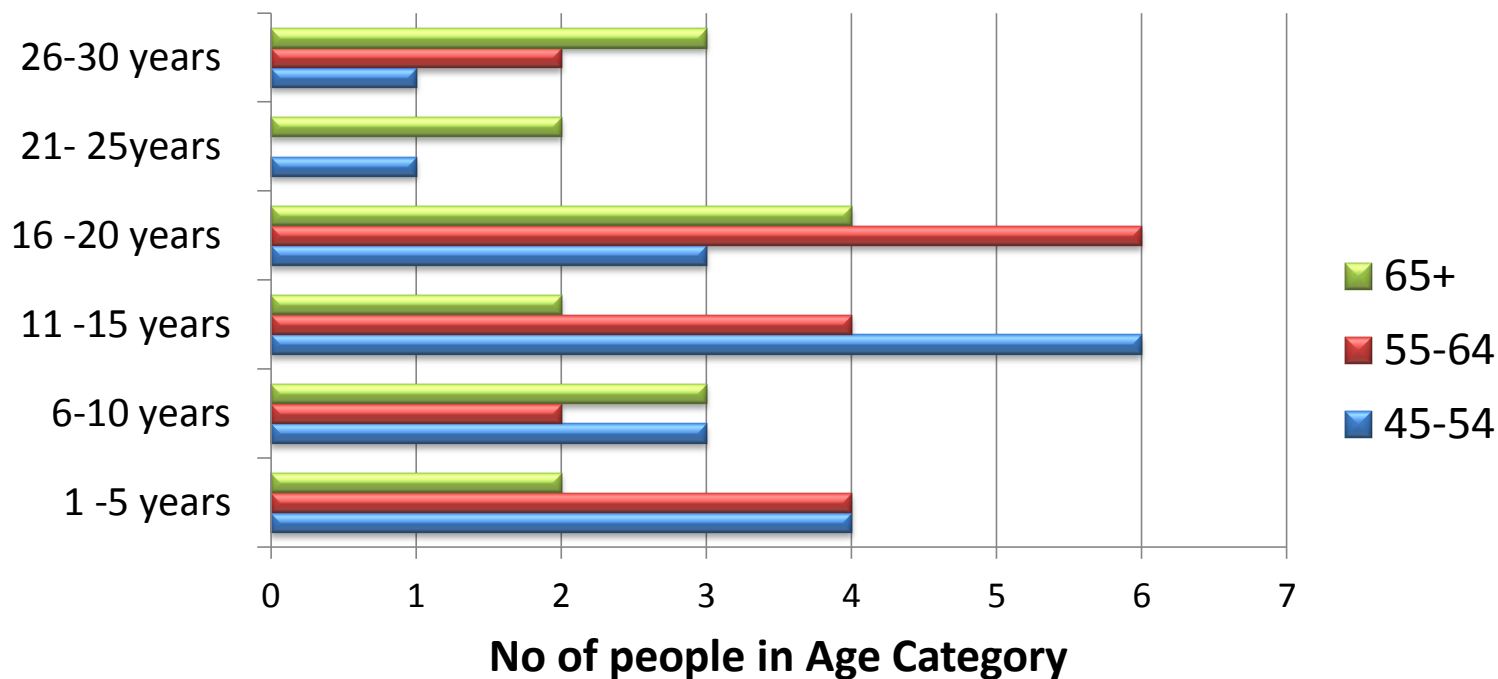
# How long have people been supported through the organisation?

- People who have received support through organisation for an extended period of time tend to have well established relationships within the service with both staff and other people who are supported.
- 45 -54 years
  - People have been supported for an average of 14 years
  - 3 – 30 years was the range of years support has been provided
- 55 – 64 years
  - People have been supported for an average of 15 years
  - 4 – 30 years was the range of years support has been provided
- 65+ years
  - People have been supported for an average of 17 years
  - 2 -30 years was the range of years support has been provided



## How long have people been supported?

- A total of 19 responses were received for this question
- Responses were grouped in 5 year intervals for reporting convenience





## How many people in the last 12 months have reduced hours with a view to transition to retirement?

- As people age they are more likely to reduce hours.
- A total number 76 people were captured in the responses
  - 45- 54 Years of Age - 12 people
  - 55 -64 Years of Age – 22 people
  - 65+ Years - 42 people
- This survey did not capture the reduced hours attended or the previous hours people attended the service.
- 19 Responses were provided, 13 respondents skipped this question.

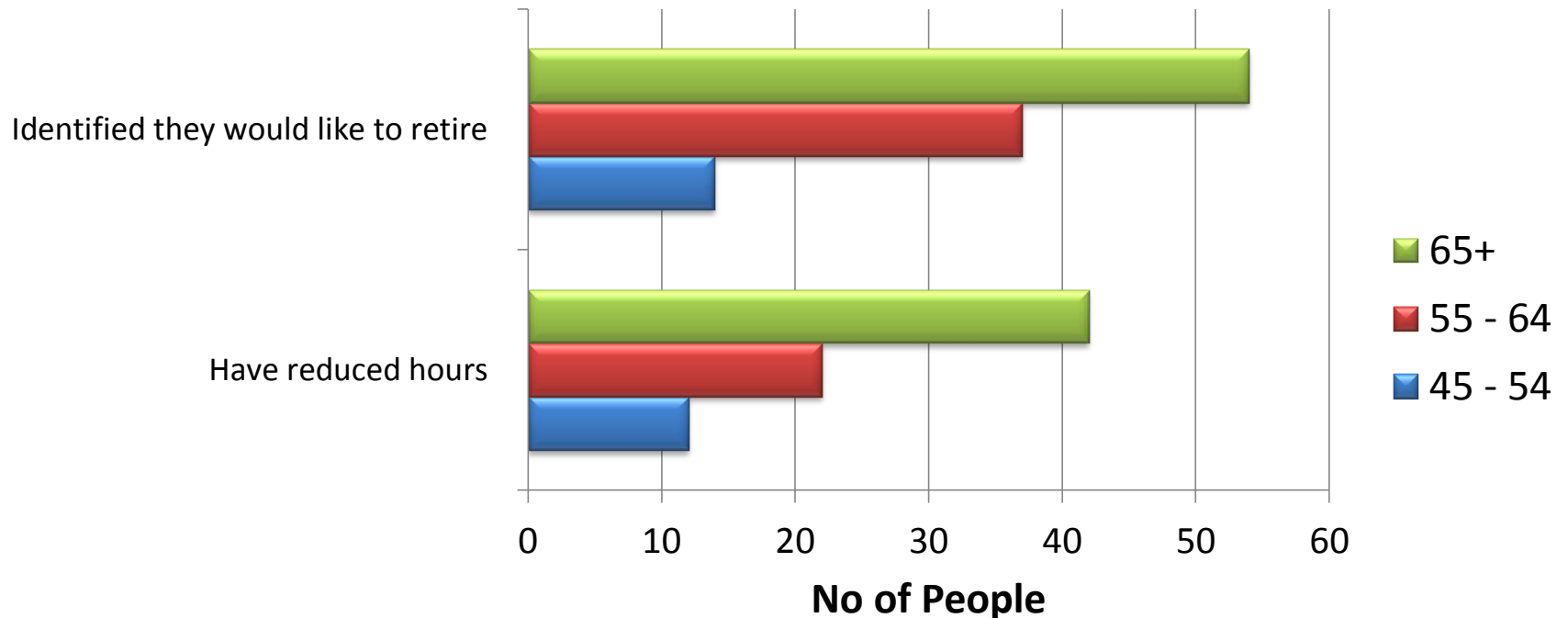


# How many people have identified that they would like to retire?

- More people have identified that they would like to retire than have reduced their hours
- 19 Responses were provided, 13 respondents skipped this question.
- A total of 105 people were captured in the responses
- People are more likely to identify that they would like to retire as they age.
  - 45- 54 Years of Age - 14people
  - 55 -64 Years of Age – 37 people
  - 65+ Years - 54 people

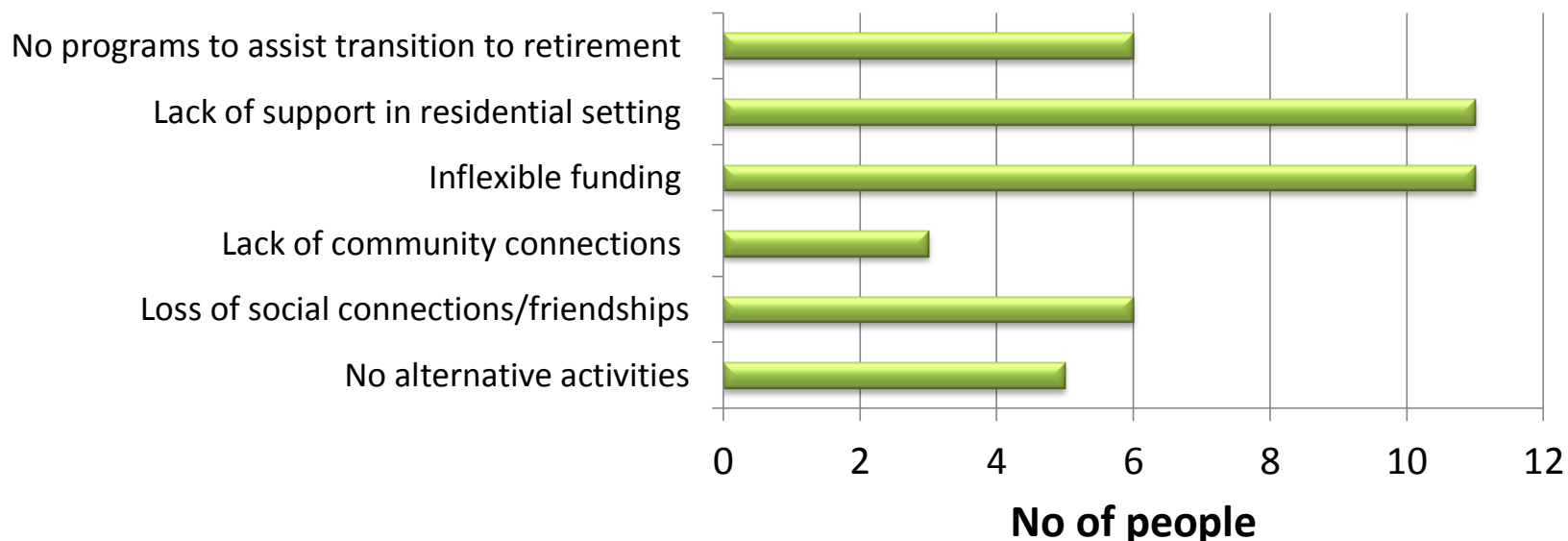
A comparison of those who have reduced hours and those who have identified that they would like to retire.

The comparison data captures that 181 people supported through services have reduced their hours (72 people) or have identified that they would like to retire (105 people)



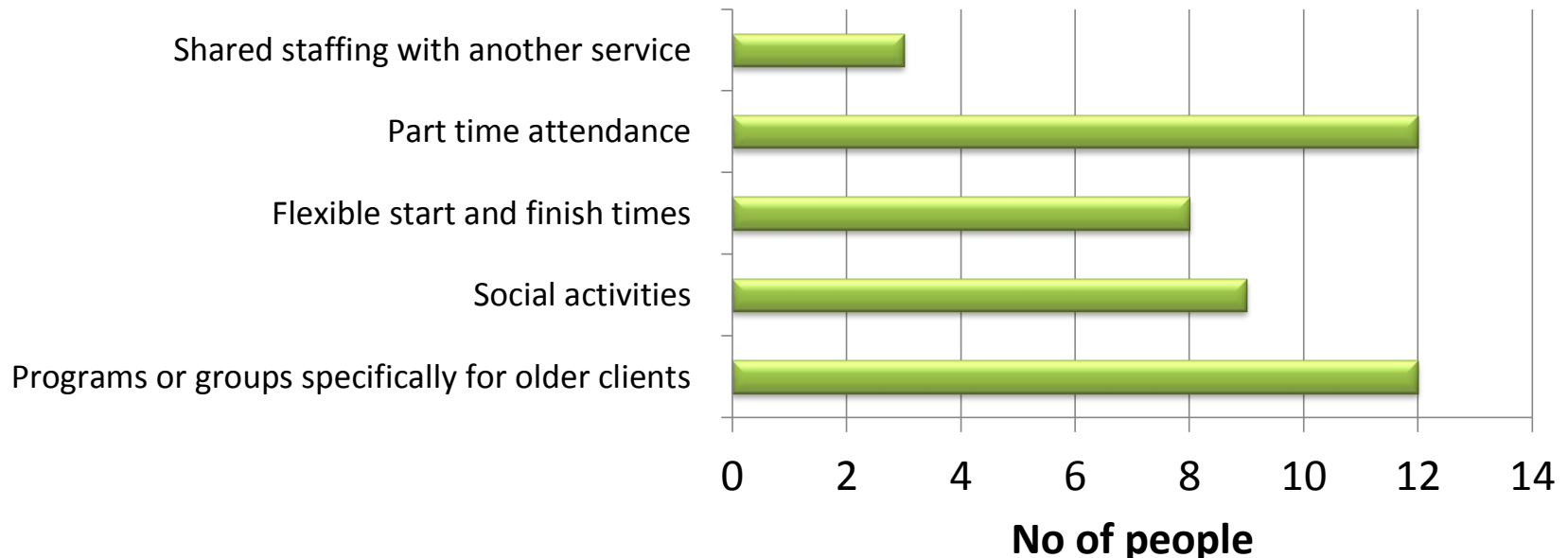
# What has prevented people from reducing their hours and or retiring?

- Lack of support in the residential setting and inflexible funding were the most identified reasons for people not being able to reduce their hours or retire.
- Comments indicated that people were unable to understand the concept of retirement, personal choice not to retire, and lack of ISP funding.
- There were 15 responses to this question



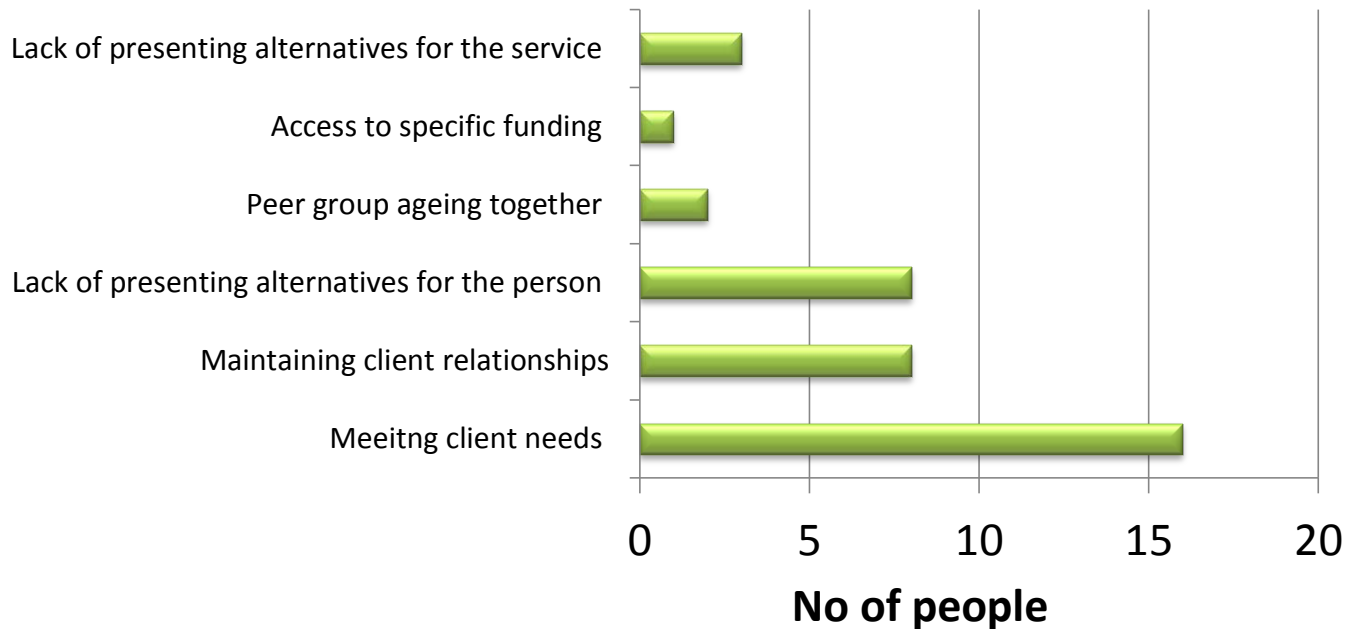
# Ageing services offered by the organisation

- To meet the client needs organisations tend to offer programs or groups specifically for older clients or offer part time attendance.
- Organisations were less likely to share staff with another organisation as part of the service provided by older people.
- Comments indicate that individual arrangements are made to meet the person's needs.



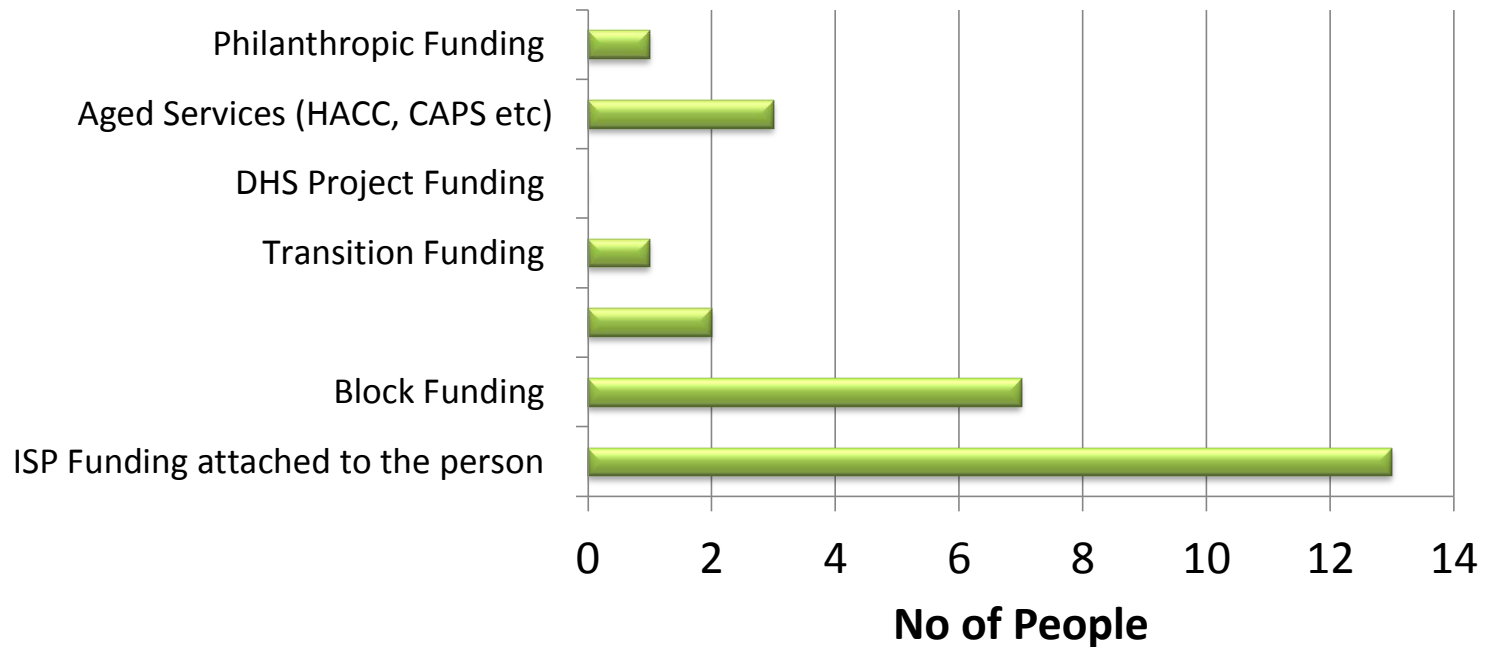
# Why organisations offer ageing specific services

- Meeting client needs was the most frequent response followed by maintaining the persons relationships and a lack of alternatives for the person.



# Ageing services funding

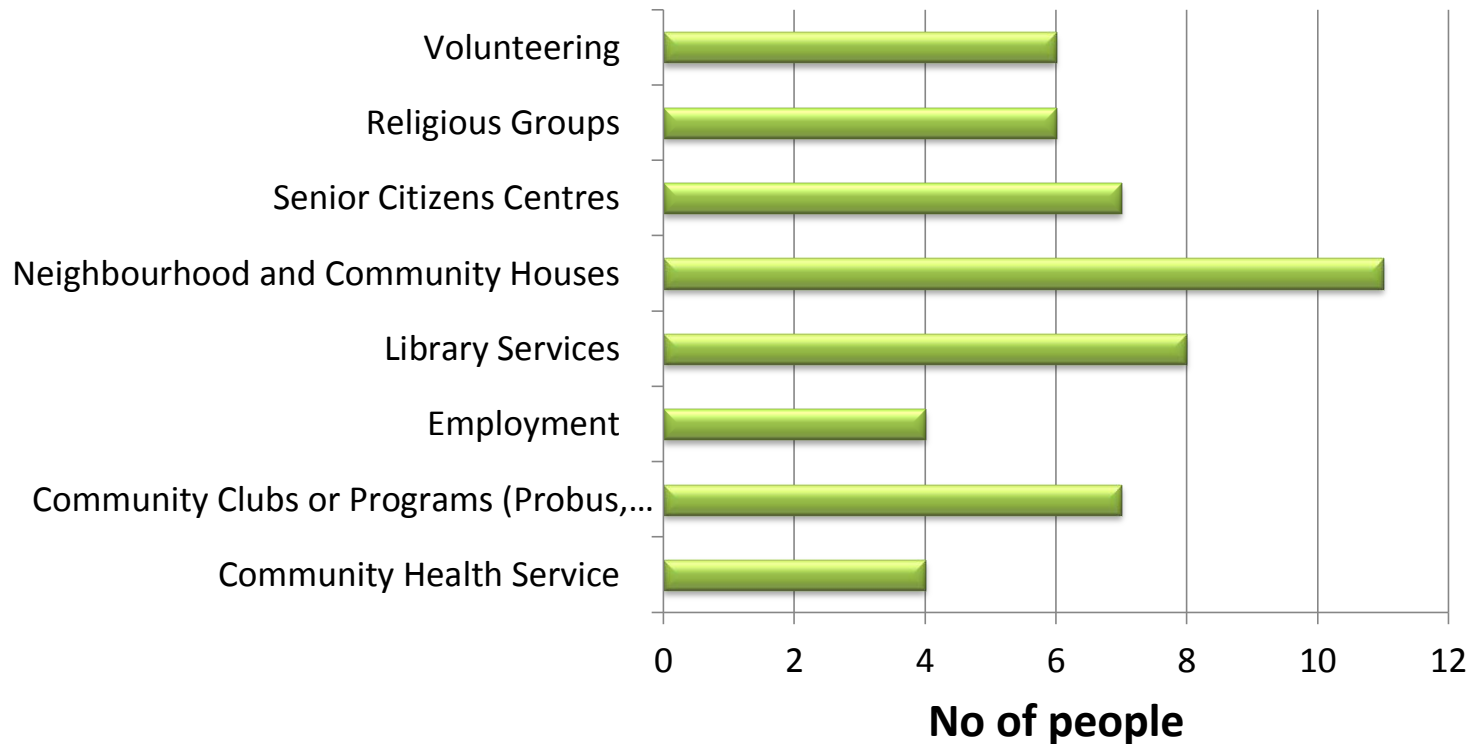
- ISP funding is the most common reported funding source followed by block funding.
- Access to DHS Project Funding, Transition Funding and Philanthropic funding were least reported funding sources.





# Connections to community

- People who are ageing in disability services are connected to a broad range of community groups and services.

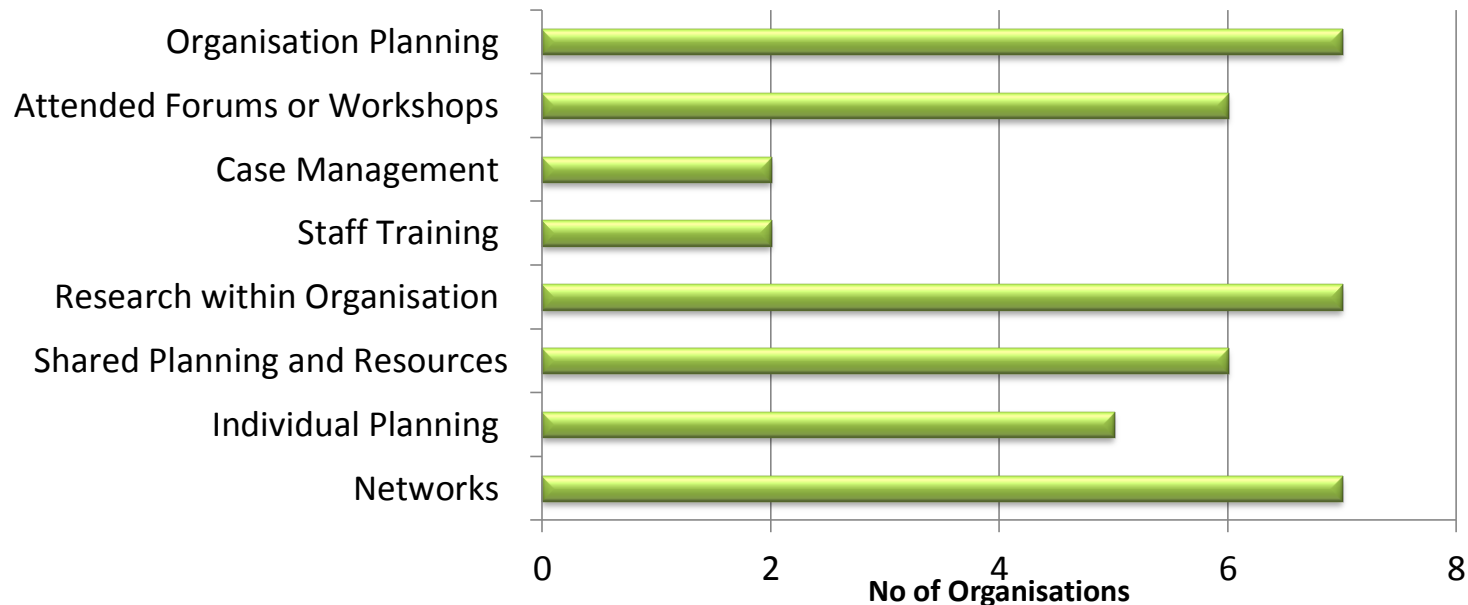


# Connections to Community

- More people are connected to neighbourhood and community houses than other groups listed in the survey. No other community connections were presented in the comments section.
- Four people are connected to employment opportunities however a limitation of this survey is the connections to community did not capture age related detail or the type and hours employed.
- Future research opportunities could explore details of community connections.

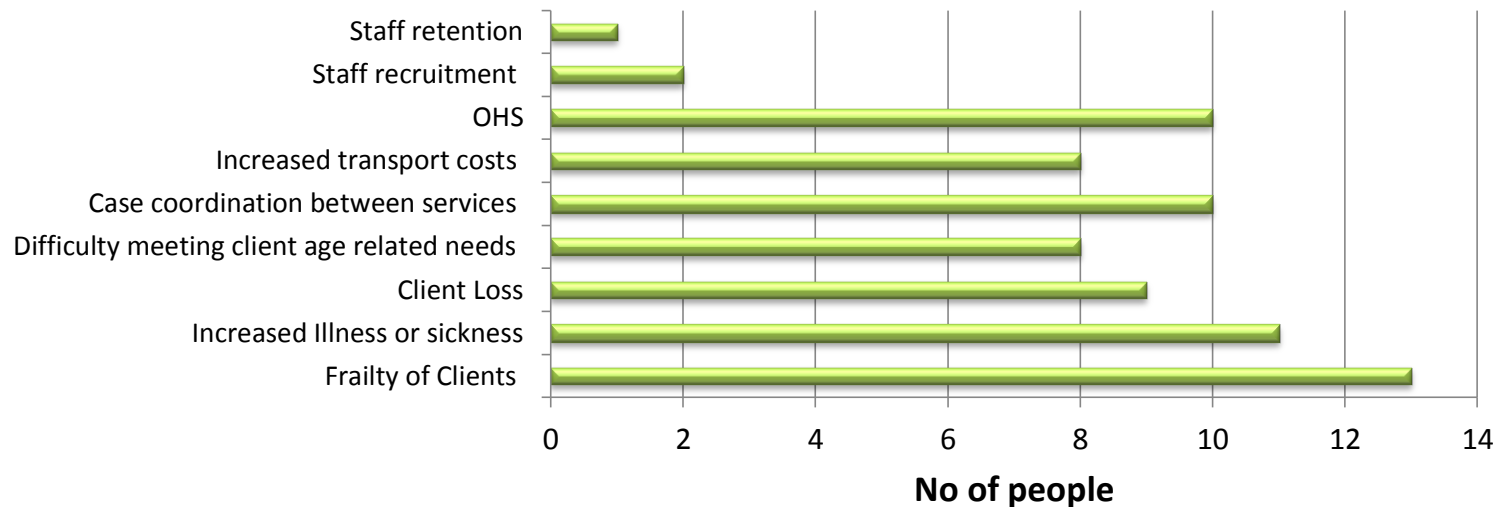
## Exploration by Organisations

- As an open question there were a number of responses that for ease of reporting have been grouped together. What this demonstrates is that Organisations undertake a variety of methodologies to create and offer programs to people who are ageing.
- Responses indicate the value of planning with the individual and as an organisation as well as the utilisation of research through forums and benchmarking with other services.



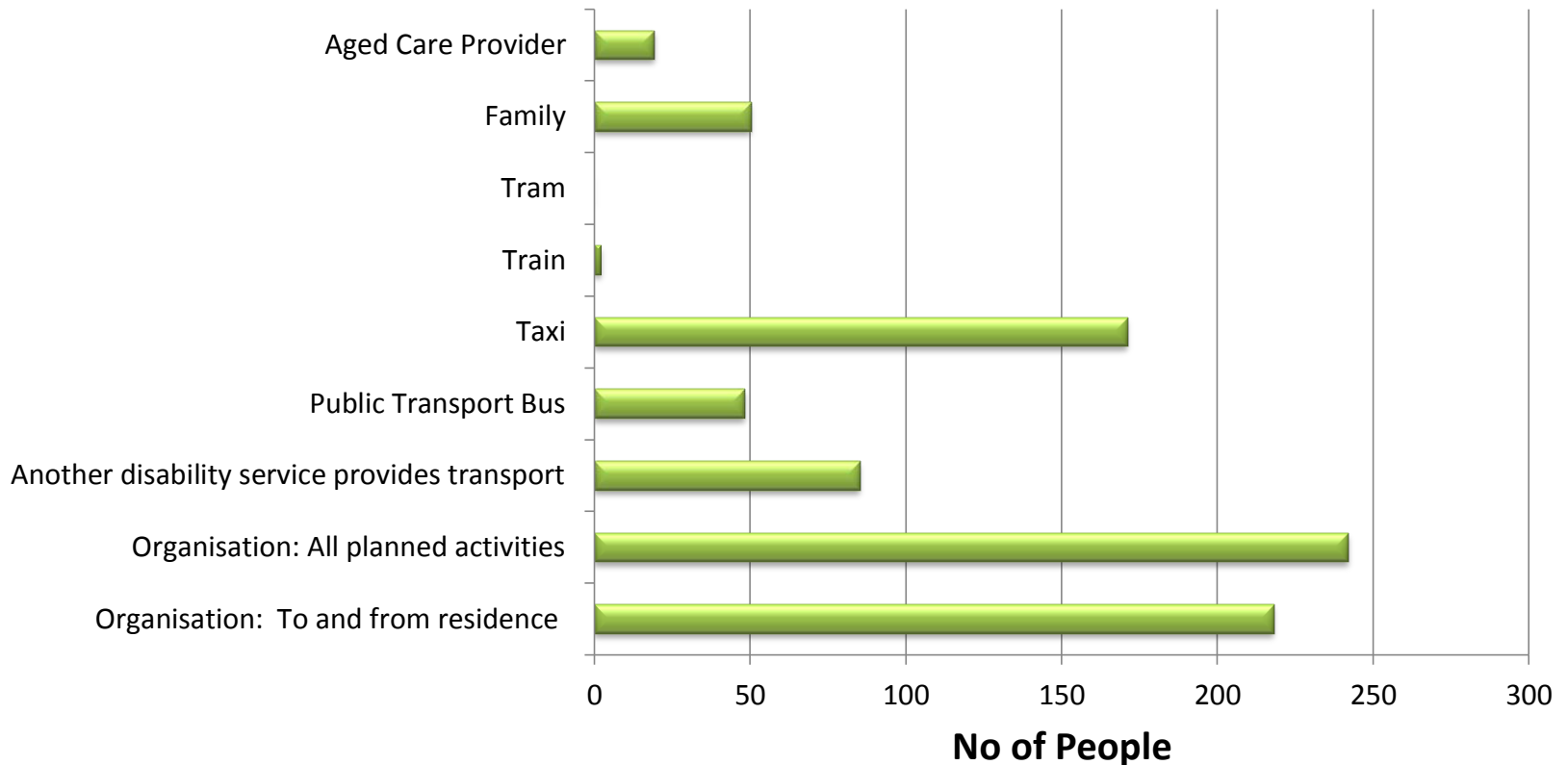
# Ageing Cohort Impact Organisation

- The frailty of client and their increased illness or poor health were the most reported impacts on the organisation.
- Organisations reported case coordination between services and OHS responsibilities as impacts attributed to ageing clients.
- Comments identified that managing the needs of both ageing and younger clients in the same program is difficult



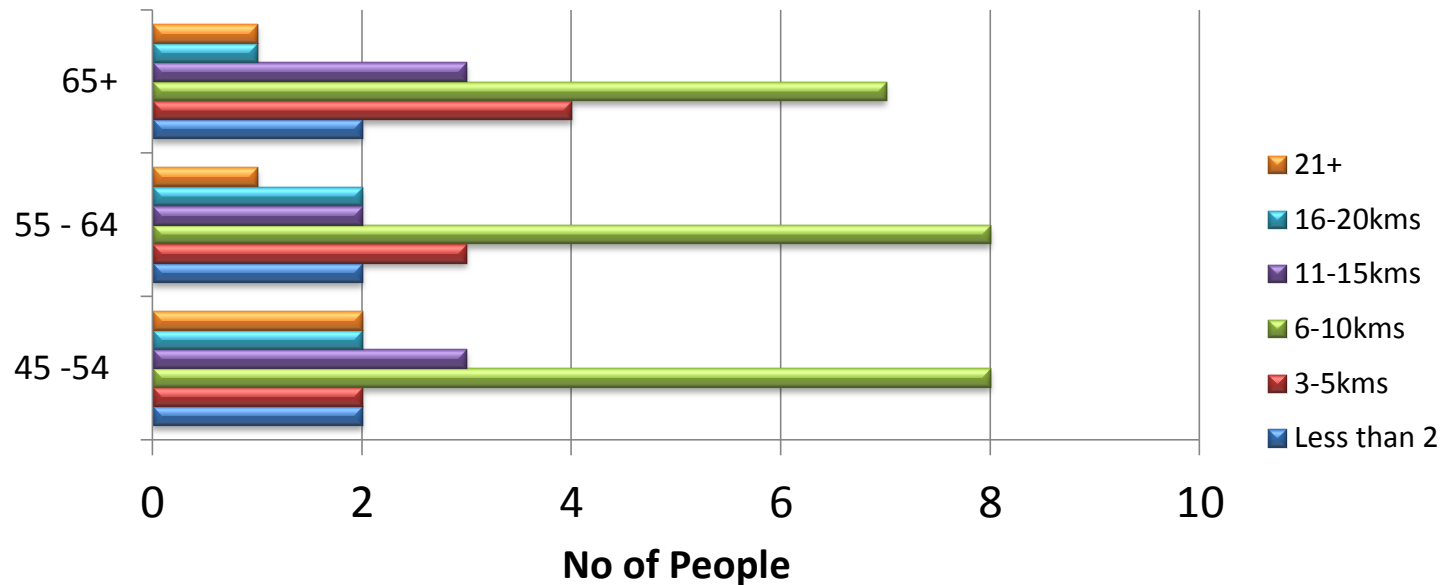
# Transport – who uses what?

- People accessing disability service organisations use a range of transport options.
- The top three transport services are:
  - The organisation provides transport to all planned activities
  - The organisation provides transport to and from the persons place of residence
  - Taxi



# Distance Travelled

- More people travel an average of 6-10 kilometres to a service than other distances.
- This question focused on an average across the organisation which limits the reliability of the data. Individual data from each service may present different results.



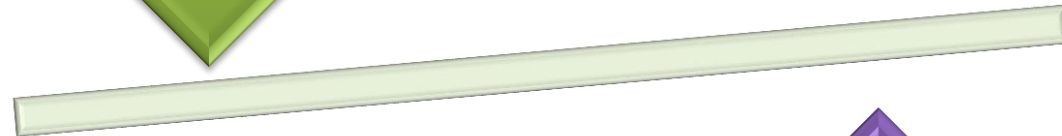
# What works and what doesn't

- Comments provided have been summarised and grouped for ease of reporting.



## What works well

- Where active ageing can be applied
- Day staff working from accommodation services to enable people to have shorter days
- Agency responsiveness, working groups formed across the organisation to see what can be achieved



## What doesn't work so well

- Lack of ability to share funding across day and accommodation services
- Premature entry to aged care services – ageing in place doesn't work or where services can no longer provide the support required
- No targeted funding to support people as they age within disability services – day and accommodation
- Accommodation services unfunded hours
- Impact of ageing on activities in mixed aged groups



# What does and doesn't work well

Two people in their late 50's have been able to start the day later and reduce their hours at the service to 3 hours.

Person travels long distance to work and gets extremely frustrated if public transport is late. Happy to leave home early to get to work on time

Day service staff provide support in the residents home when residential staff leave, to enable people to sleep in and start day later. Has only been possible because there were 2 aged individuals receiving day service support from the one residential facility



# Comments and Questions

We need to rethink what ageing looks like – starting at 45 is incorrect especially when access to the pension is scheduled to move to 70

45 was a starting point for this survey as research indicates that for some disability types ageing related conditions appear earlier

Agree that we need to rethink is meant by ageing and would extend this to include what retirement means to people with a disability



Thinking how a persons funding is calculated and used. If a I want to go fishing one day a week but because I don't go to my day program any more there are no transport funds for the day I don't go then I cant go fishing or meet my friends for a coffee at the shops. I just stay home

NDIS funding should change this as it disconnects the funding from the service to the person.

Clarity regarding the use of Centrelink Mobility Allowance provisions in the transition to NDIS . Services will need to be consider how transport costs are factored into program costs and not disadvantage the person