

Equity for our elderly: supply and demand factors for equitable access to residential aged care

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**via Zoom : <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/84575189671?pwd=enFXaC9WSUYzckZCeTdXV1h5eVpvdz09>
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Numerical and structural ageing are increasing the need for formal aged care services globally. In Australia, governments collectively spent around \$20 billion on aged care in 2018–19, representing 4% of all government spending, and 1% of gross domestic product. These numbers are getting bigger, with around one-third of the projected growth in aged care spending over the next decade due to ageing of the population. Assuming that governments will want to continue exercising spending restraint (particularly following the COVID-19 budget pressures, but balanced against the likely recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety), the finite resources should desirably be distributed equitably. There are equity provisions built into the legislation and associated 'allocation principles', but there are limited policy tools for ensuring equitable access at a micro level, and limited means for monitoring equity at a micro or macro level.

This research will make two separate but linked contributions. First, it will confirm and quantify the demand and supply factors that influence equitable access to residential aged care in Australia. Second, given the various demand and supply factors, it will propose a set of 'best buy' policy options, including assessment/ scoring against the equity objectives.

Mark Cooper-Stanbury is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population Health. He is also a graduate researcher member of one of the University's LNR Ethics Committees.

Prior to commencing graduate research, Mark spent 27 years at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, where he led the development, collection and reporting of several major statistical collections, most recently covering aged care. He has managed, authored or reviewed around 130 reports, monographs and journal articles, and presented at national and international conferences.

When not studying, Mark enjoys classical music, cryptic crosswords, cooking, disc golf, bushwalking, and generally being curious.