Research Statement

**Title:** Infill Development for Older Australians in South East Queensland: An Analysis of the Preferences of Older People in the Urban Environment

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**Research Background**

In the field of regional and urban planning, little research has been done. Accommodation options for seniors as they age are frequently a retirement village on the edge of town, or living in their own 3-5 bedroom house. We investigated a third option, 'aging in neighbourhood', whereby seniors live in suitable infill development in communities, staying among safe familiar surroundings and friends as they age. This research investigated seniors’ preferences for design of liveable, sustainable and affordable neighbourhoods and accommodation.

**Research Contribution**

The research contributed design principles and typologies for seniors living. The photovoice qualitative research method combined with participatory design charrettes rated via a sustainability indicator assessment tool are unique mixed methods. New knowledge was generated in terms of priorities for seniors in sub-tropical areas, in particular: universal design; outdoor living space; and environmentally sensitive features.

**Research Significance**

The research won two industry awards for research: International Association of Public Participation Australasian 2013, Core value award for participatory research; and Planning Institute of Australia (Qld), 2012, Excellence Award for Cutting Edge Research and Teaching, Infill Development for Older Australians in South East Queensland.