

# Older Australians' concerns about affordability in early 2026

In January-February 2026, NSA asked 4198 older Australians about 12 costs, and whether they were concerned about being able to afford any of them over the next 12 months.

Necessities such as power, healthcare, and groceries topped the list, along with big ticket items such as holidays and travel and insurance.

Housing costs were flagged by 11% of all those surveyed. But 80% of the sample owned their homes outright and few of them were concerned, so that number is misleading. People renting or paying mortgages had much higher levels of concern about housing cost affordability.

The data are drawn from the National Seniors Social Survey conducted in January-February 2026. It was open to anyone residing in Australia aged 50 or over. Participants were invited to select all the costs that applied to them from a list of 12, plus an 'other' option (selected by 2%, not illustrated) and an option to say 'I am not concerned about any of these'.

Note this survey was taken prior to the 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis and US attacks on Iran, so concern over some items, especially transport, may have changed since then.

## Concerned about affordability of...

