

Flatmates Market Insight

5 December 2025



Cost of living driving older Australians into shared living



55% of respondents chose share house living due to the **cost of living**



Share house living has **helped 71%** of those seeking a room to **save more**



Respondents **aged 55-64** **increased to 15%** in 2025



Almost 1 in 2 say their share house **feels like home**

Cost of living a key factor in shared housing

- Cost of living (55%) was the key driver for share house living, according to over 4,500 respondents to the Flatmates.com.au National Share House Accommodation Survey 2025.
- For those listing a spare room for rent, 58% did so because of rate rises and financial stress.
- Similarly, 45% were seeking a room as they could not afford a whole property alone.
- 7 in 10 respondents believe the Australian dream of owning a property is unattainable for young people.
- However, share house living has helped 71% of those seeking a room to save more money.

The typical 'flatmate' is changing

- For those aged 55-64, shared accommodation continued to increase in popularity, with 15% of respondents falling in this age bracket, up from 9% in 2024.
- In line with the demographic shift, 79% of respondents were not currently studying, up from 71% in 2024.

Companionship and connection a bonus of sharing

- Companionship (11%) – friendships and company – was also a motivator for entering shared living.
- Almost 1 in 2 say their share house feels like home.
- On average, respondents rated their relationship with their flatmates 4.2 out of 5.

"It's evident that Australians are feeling the pinch, with almost six in 10 respondents identifying cost of living as their key reason for moving into shared living.

"Shared accommodation is increasingly viewed as a practical solution to the cost-of-living crisis, and as a result, the demographics are shifting. Older Australians are a growing cohort in share houses, with 15% of respondents over 55. This defies the common perception that share house living is mostly for students or younger people. In fact, the majority of the Flatmates.com.au audience are not currently studying at all.

"In addition to being able to save more, an added benefit of shared living is companionship. Many tenants in shared living form positive relationships and even view their share house as home.

"Looking forward, seven in 10 respondents say the cost of living has impacted their property plans for the next few years, so we can expect to see more Australians from all demographics turning to shared accommodation.

"Though the Australian dream of owning property may feel distant for some, it's amazing to know that nearly half of respondents believe their share house truly feels like home in the meantime."