

Older Persons' Forum Webinar Two - 2 September 2021

After the presentations, the participants entered break-out rooms, and had time to discuss what they had heard and what they thought was relevant for the Terms of Reference for the 2022 Review of Retirement Income Policies. The notes below were collated by members of each break-out room.

Break-out group 1:

- Structural issues that restrict alternative housing options are deep-rooted
- Need to create authentic spaces for discussion
- Housing needs to be considered alongside transport and retirement income
- Need to stress the importance of planning for later life

Break-out group 2:

- It's very sad we are having this conversation. Other countries are well ahead with their thinking.
- We need to accept that adequate housing is a basic human right.
- We should have dealt with this issue. The problem is ballooning.
- It's disappointing that housing has been used as a wealth building mechanism versus a basic human right.
- The Government needs to get directly involved and solve it.
- Banking standards don't allow banks to being open minded with housing innovation.

Break-out group 3:

- Investigate ways to remove the financial and legal difficulties from pursuing alternative housing options, in particular, at pace and at scale

Break-out group 4:

- Consider the structural barriers, especially financial (lending), to alternative housing models.
- Community is important in ageing well
- Need more flexibility in IRRS to access funding. Rules are currently an active disincentive for TLAs to provide social and pensioner housing.
- Need to unpick the reasons and address why people were resistance to living in a community that also included council or social housing