

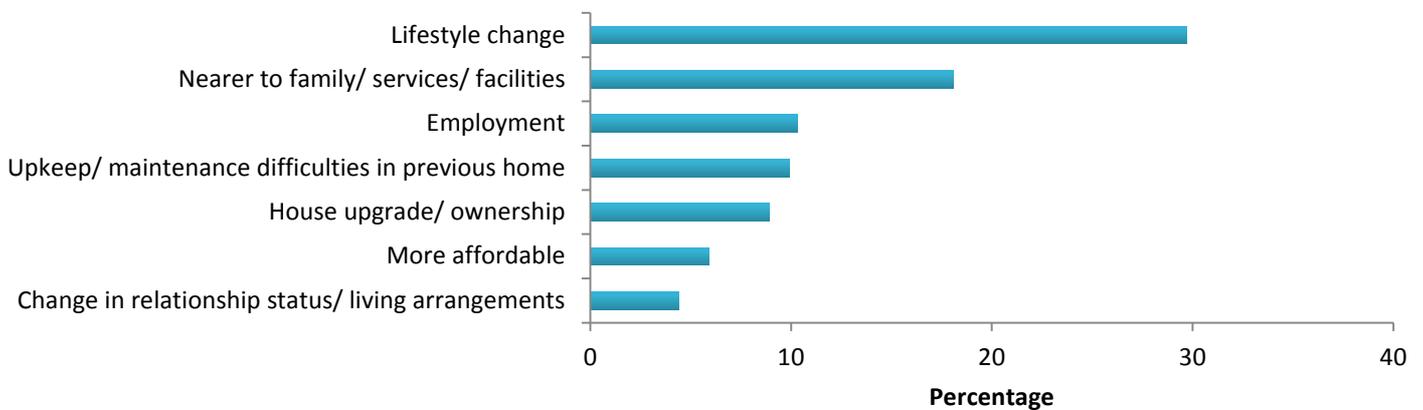
Residential Mobility and Reasons for Moving

A recent survey of NSA members asked about different aspects of residential mobility, including time lived in current home, distance moved and reasons for moving.

Results show that respondents have been relatively mobile – only a third have lived in their current home for 20 years or more, and a quarter have moved within the last 5 years. However, two-thirds of respondents moved a relatively short distance, remaining in the same or a nearby neighbourhood within an hour’s travel time.

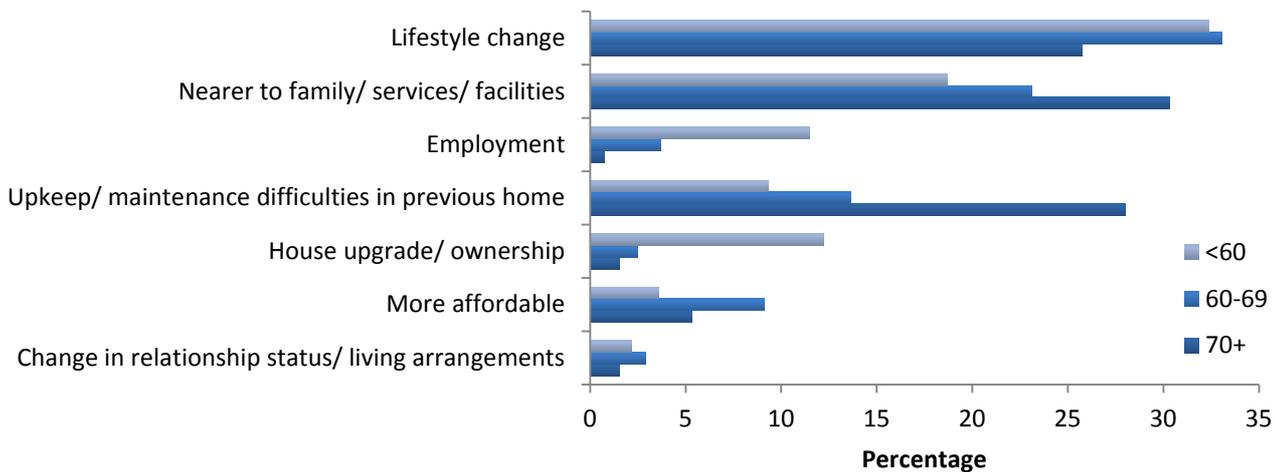
The main reason for moving was lifestyle change (Figure below): this accounted for almost a third of moves, regardless of how long ago the move occurred. Lifestyle moves did not involve great distances: about two-thirds of lifestyle movers remained within an hour’s travel time of their previous residence.

Reason for moving



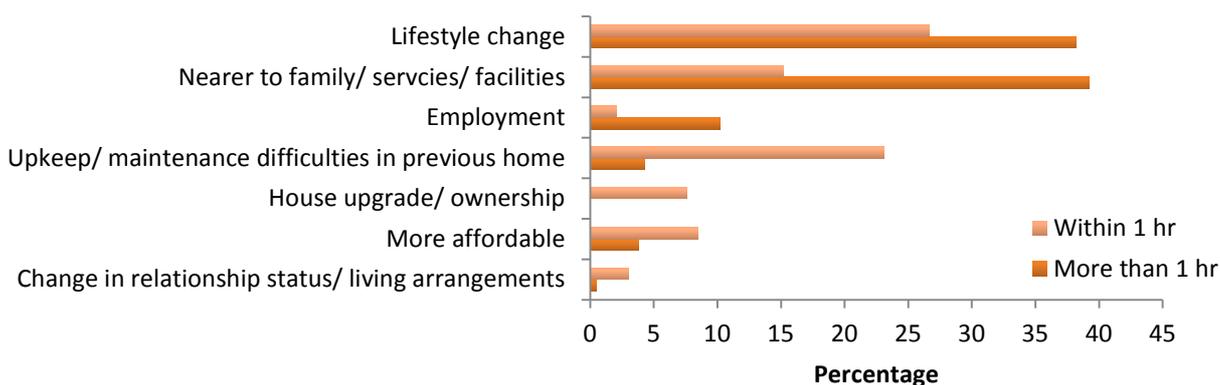
Considering only recent moves (within the last 5 years), reason for move tends to differ by age (Figure below). Younger respondents (<60 years) are more likely (than those in older age groups) to move for employment or to improve their housing. The 60-69 age group are the most likely to move for housing affordability reasons or for relationship reasons. The oldest respondents (70+) are more likely to move to be nearer to family members, services and facilities or because of maintenance difficulties, and are least likely to move for a change of lifestyle.

Age differences in reasons for moving (recent moves)



Reasons for recent moves also differ by distance moved. Recent movers who remain in the same or a nearby neighbourhood are more likely to move because of maintenance difficulties, affordability reasons or to improve their housing, whereas those moving greater distances tend to move to be nearer to family members, services and facilities, for a lifestyle change or for employment (Figure below).

Reasons for moving distance moved (recent moves)



This issue of 'Facts and Figures' includes data from the Social Activity and Wellbeing of Older Australians survey which is part of the Social Networks and Ageing Project (SNAP). This study is funded by an ARC Linkage grant -LP0990974 "The role of online social networks in successful ageing: benefiting from 'who you know' at older ages" (H. Booth, R. Ackland and T. Windsor; 2009-2012) - in collaboration with National Seniors Australia Productive Ageing Centre. This 'Facts and Figures' has been created by Heather Booth and Pilar Rioseco from the Social Networks and Ageing Project at the Australian National University.