

## **Multi-age precincts (MAPs) – communities by and for all ages**

Multi-age precincts (MAPs) are planned communities that aim not only to accommodate a diversity of age groups through an appropriate mix of hard and soft infrastructure, but also to achieve better integration and connectedness between different resident generations.

MAPs are based on the notion that fostering a mix of age groups, and positive interaction between them, can add considerable value to the vibrancy, functionality and cohesiveness of a community.

Planning for MAPs can ensure that development accommodates and provides services for residents of different ages, and appeals to people throughout the various stages of their lifecycles.

MAPs can facilitate interaction between age groups and harness the value that people at different life stages can provide to each other.

This can occur through spontaneous or fleeting encounters in public and shared spaces, as well as through planned or programmed interactions – for example, older people assisting in the mentoring of younger people, or students participating in aged care in return for free or subsidised living. MAPs can also promote cost savings through the sharing economy, with the potential for residents to share facilities (e.g. kitchen or laundry), appliances (e.g. vacuum cleaners), or cars and car spaces.

The importance of planned MAPs has grown with the decline of organic forms of intergenerational living<sup>1</sup>. With an ageing population, there is a need to better plan for the care of older people, with appropriate consideration given to the increasingly diverse needs and interests of individuals within this ageing group.

Models to deliver MAPs include co-housing by owner-residents and cooperative housing supported by a range of planning regulations. Successful examples of MAPs are found in Vancouver (Canada), The Hague (the Netherlands), London (UK), Barcelona (Spain) and Zurich (Switzerland).

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<sup>1</sup> Organic, often family-oriented forms of age diverse living, often multiple generations living within a single dwelling or neighbourhood