



“THE NOTION ‘PET-FRIENDLY’ NEEDS TO BE UNPACKED FOR THIS SPECIFIC SETTING TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS FOR BOTH THE OLDER PERSON AND THE COMPANION ANIMAL.”



me and my pet aged care

Advocating for change to keep pets with their owners when they move into aged care.



Don't leave me behind?

Forced separation of older people and their pets in residential aged care homes.

Fiona is an urban planner who focuses on the integration of 'pets' in urban places and spaces. She has long been interested in how people and pets navigate space and in the design of space to accommodate the needs of the pet.

This interest in human-animal spaces has led her to undertake a PhD at the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University. Her PhD research explores the interconnections between humans, animals, and place (or space) in residential aged care homes through a multispecies lens.

Fiona's has worked closely with Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) on their Pet Friendly Aged Care programs working on keeping older Australians together in residential care and support in the home care packages. Following their 2023 survey¹, only 18% of residential aged care facilities consider allowing residents with companion pets.

This means many older Australians transitioning to a residential aged care home are forced to leave their companion animal behind due to exclusionary 'pet' policies.

FIONA DE ROSA

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Older people have to make the difficult decision between giving up their pet or securing a bed in a residential aged care home.

On the surface, the label 'pet-friendly' presents an opportunity for aged care facilities to include 'pets', but it's fraught with several issues, for instance: Are they referring to visiting, facility or personal pets? Are residents and their companion pets allowed to live on site together? What species are permitted? What conditions apply? The notion 'pet-friendly' needs to be unpacked for this specific setting to better understand what it means for both the older person and the companion animal.

Along with Fiona's initial work and ongoing collaboration with aged care facilities running proven successful programs keeping people and their pets together, CANA is offering proven support kits (including rules, regulations policies and more) to all residential aged care facilities considering making this move. "The kits are free to the industry. Our role is to keep people and their pets together in the interest of both," said Trish Ennis CEO CANA.

TRISH ENNIS

CEO
Companion Animal Network Australia - CANA

¹ petfriendlyagedcare.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CANA-Pet-Friendly-Aged-Care-Survey-Results-OPT.pdf

Learn more about Fiona and Trish's work:
[linkedin.com/in/fiona-de-rosa-403a3b26](https://www.linkedin.com/in/fiona-de-rosa-403a3b26)
petfriendlyagedcare.com.au | australiacan.org.au

Me and My Pet Aged Care is a brand new initiative that, immediately upon launching attracted a surprising amount of positive attention, demonstrating that pets in aged care is a topic that is very close to the hearts of many Australians.

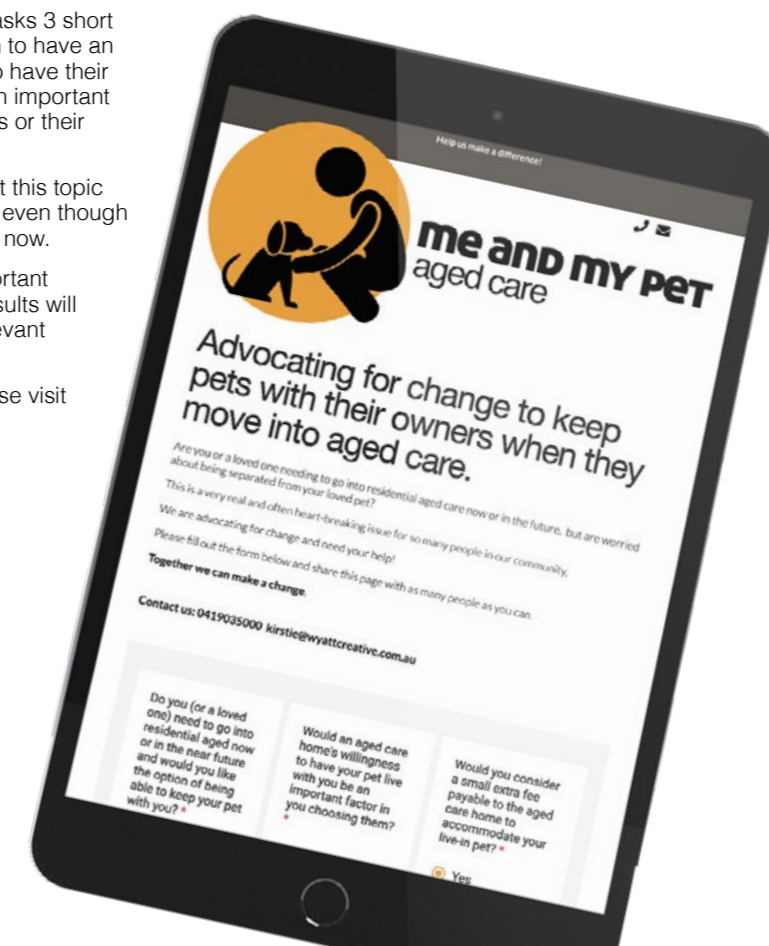
Me and My Pet Aged Care is a web page that asks 3 short questions about how important it is for a person to have an aged care home consider allowing a resident to have their pet live with them, and whether this would be an important factor in that home being chosen for themselves or their loved one.

It also asks the younger audience to think about this topic and what it might mean to them down the track even though it might not be something relevant to them right now.

The aim is to get an understanding of how important this issue is within the community, and these results will be shared with aged care homes and other relevant decision-makers.

If you see this as being an important issue please visit the website and share your views.

Together we can make change happen!



Share what matters to you by answering 3 short questions at the Me and My Pet Aged Care Website:
meandmypetagedcare.com.au