Disability and Ageing:
A combined approach to research and policy

This Diversity Festival we reflect on conversations that matter in our community. Throughout the week, we are highlighting the **intersection between ageing and disability**.
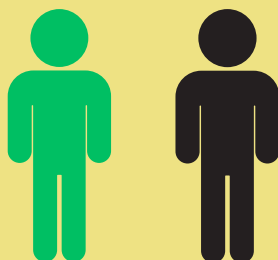
1 in 4 Australians have a **disability**

23% of Australians will be **65 years and older** (by 2050)

1 in 7 Australians aged 0-64 years have a disability

1 in 2 Australians 65 years and older have a disability

Disability rates are expected to **rise** as the **population ages**

Diversity
Festival
2025
Conversations that matter

Ageing ≠ Disability
...but the challenges often overlap

Ageing does not always mean disability - yet many **policy and research opportunities** are shared. Addressing them requires collaboration across both ageing and disability sectors.

What challenges can we address **together?**

- **Data gaps:** Build stronger evidence on older people with disabilities, particularly lived experiences and unmet needs.
- **Workforce pressures:** Plan for sustainable recruitment, training, and retention to meet rising demand.
- **Informal carers:** Provide greater recognition and support as carer numbers continue to grow.
- **Ageing carers:** Develop policies that address the vulnerabilities of carers who are ageing themselves.
- **Inclusive policy-making:** Ensure older people with disabilities are included in decisions on housing, urban design, and social connection.
- **New models of care and housing:** Create and evaluate models that reflect disability across the lifespan.
- **Emerging technologies:** Address the impact of AI and digital tools on care, access, and decision-making.
- **Preparedness:** Strengthen disaster and emergency planning to meet the needs of older people with disabilities.

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UNSW Disability Innovation Institute