

9c Aged Care Material Considerations



AACA Competency: Design

Module Outline: Designing residential aged care facilities is complex. The challenge is to create a single structure, a care facility that adequately houses a variety of services to a number of residents, each with differing emotional and physical health needs along with varying levels of cognition.

A well thought out facility is one that balances the needs of the residents (and staff) whilst catering for the 'whole person'. There is a vast body of knowledge that looks at the impact that the built environment has on the mental and physical health of the resident.

Best practice design involves rethinking 'aged care facilities'. The key here is to remember that the aged care facility is first and foremost a home.

Learning Objectives:

1. To design a building that has a domestic ambience and avoids institutional design, display a character consistent with a homelike feel which gives a sense of belonging 3:3.1.

2. Understanding the unique requirements for safety and hygiene and acoustics in aged care buildings, comply with all mandatory standards referenced by the building code of Australia 3:3.4.

3. To utilise life cycle costing principles for long term maintenance 3:3.6.

4. Outlining higher performing materials to achieve better outcomes 4:4.6.

Outcome: The primary aim is to ensure designers understand age care residents are to be housed in a comfortable, well-insulated building to control heat and cold, along with air quality and hygiene, good acoustic insulation, and safety elements of Aged Care Facility design.

Who May Benefit: Architects and specifiers working in Age Care design environments who seek clarification and inspiration around higher performing acoustic, hygiene, air quality.

Module Creator: Lisa Palamara has a Bachelor Degree in Social Sciences with a double major in Sociological and Legal Research methods. Lisa's academic research has expanded to include 3 years of Architectural research and document development for Architectural Education modules nationwide. Lisa analyses sociological methods and applies them to the architectural design process.

Duration: 1 hour

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