

# Anna and Karl's story

**Learn how Anna and Karl found peace of mind in their later years through accessing aged care services.**

Aged 92 and 89, Anna and Karl have found that aged care services give them the support they need to live safely and with dignity, while continuing to care for each other.

Read Anna and Karl's story or [watch](#) their video story.



## A lifetime partnership

Anna and Karl recently celebrated 70 years of marriage together. Their journey brought them to Australia in 1956 as 'ten pound migrants'. After two years working in Orange, they briefly returned to Austria but quickly realised Australia was their true home. As Anna says:

“We loved it despite having no family, no kids. We called Australia home.”

Anna and Karl's bond is the cornerstone of their lives. They've always managed everything together and relied only on each other.

For nearly 30 years, they lived on a large property not far from their current home. While they enjoyed living there, looking after such a large property and garden became harder over time. Karl says:

“That place was big. It had a twin garage and a carport and four bedrooms. I mean, you love it but it's only two people.”

When a chance came to move to a retirement village, Anna and Karl decided to make the change. They chose their new home because of its easy access and safety, which was especially important as Anna needed a walker after an operation.

## Finding out about aged care

Anna and Karl's first contact with My Aged Care happened when Anna had a hip replacement. During her recovery, hospital staff asked if she had anyone to care for her. She told them that she lived with her husband and they were the only support they had for each other.

The hospital saw they could use some extra support and helped them contact My Aged Care to apply for an assessment. This led to Anna getting a cleaner to help with housework while she recovered, which made a big difference.

Anna and Karl have noticed that, as they age, some tasks have become harder and they need more support. They are now planning to go back through My Aged Care to get extra help with their garden.

What matters most to Anna and Karl is that they can continue to live together in their own home. Their access to aged care services gives them comfort that if one of them needs to go to hospital, support will be there for the other.

“They know my situation and it is very good to feel safe that if our life situation changes then we have the support from My Aged Care.”

Anna and Karl's journey shows that, even without close family around, aged care services can provide the support people need to live well with dignity.

Your aged care needs to work for you. Like Anna and Karl, you have the right to aged care that is safe, meets your needs, and gives you choice in the support you receive.

For more information visit [MyAgedCare.gov.au](https://myagedcare.gov.au) or free call 1800 200 422.