



Building global resilience through care ecosystems:

Advancing Intergenerational Solidarity and Equity in an Unsettling World

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Outline



- What's happening globally?
- Why intergenerational solidarity and equity?
- How to advance intergenerational solidarity and equity?



Longwood bushfire.
Photograph: Wandong Fire Brigade/Reuters



Flooding at Wye River on Thursday. REBECCA SCOTT

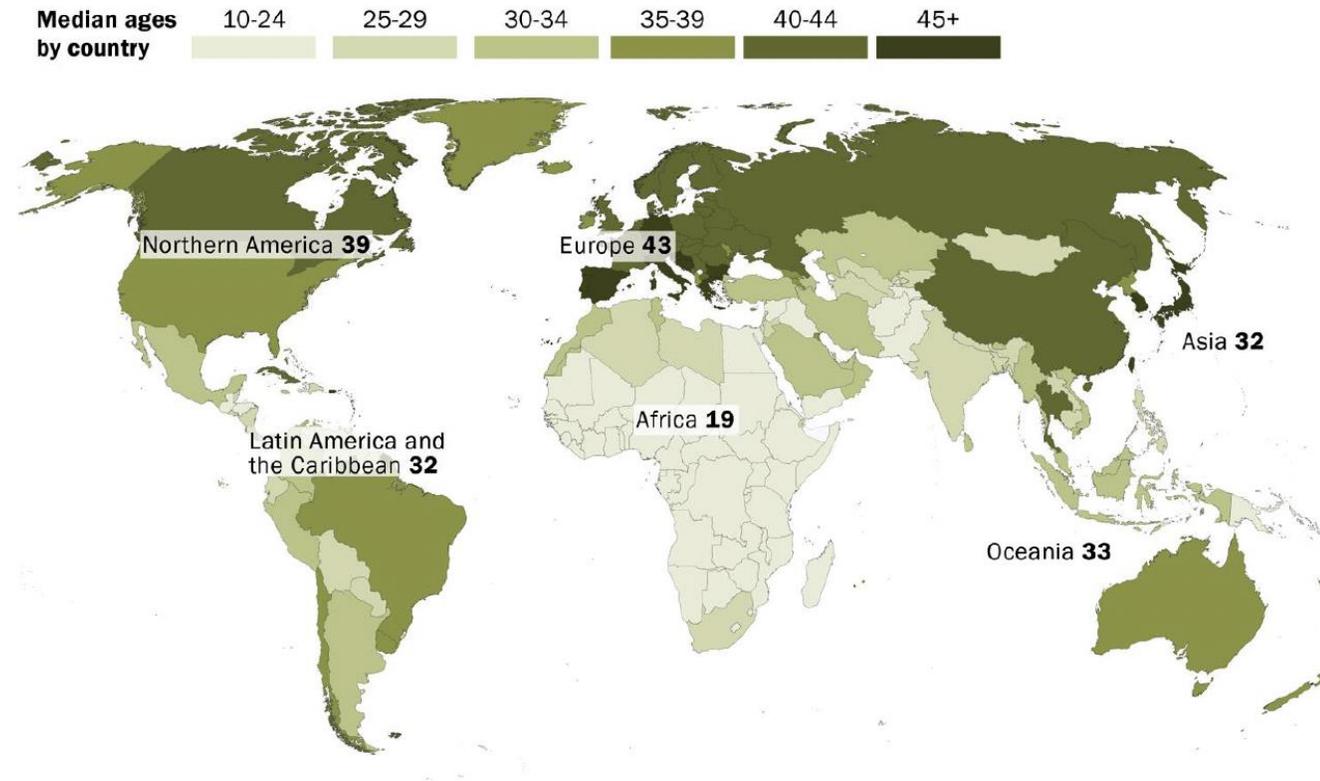


Global Demographic Shifts

- Ageing populations (By 2050, 65+ at 1.5 billion)
- Declining fertility in parts of Asia, Europe and Australia
- Youth bulges are common in developing countries
- Migration and growing diversity concentrated in Europe, Asia and North America

Today, Europe has the oldest population of any region; Africa has the youngest

Median age in 2025, by country and region



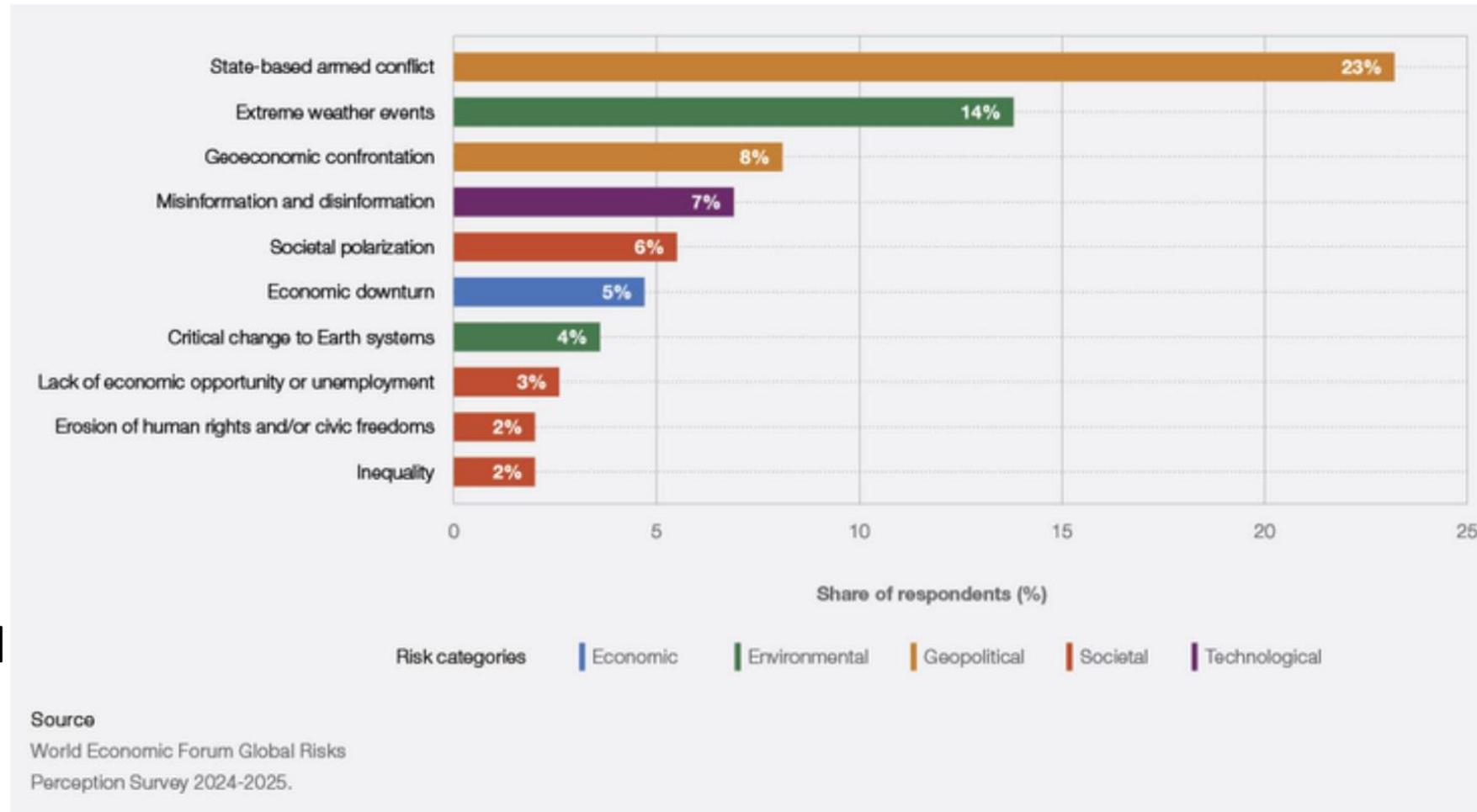
Note: Region classifications follow the United Nations.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the UN Population Division's 2024 Revision of World Population Prospects.

Complex Global Challenges



- Climate change: adequate food, (nutrition) and water
- Geopolitical instability
- Economic pressures
- Social divides
- Affordability of care and long-term care



Why Intergenerational Solidarity and Equity?



- Build resilience and inclusivity
- Prevent widening divides
- Support sustainable development
- Collaboration between UNESCO and UN Global Pulse findings – need to give people a sense of agency, need intercultural awareness, consider the past and present, appreciate novelty, and temporal empathy.



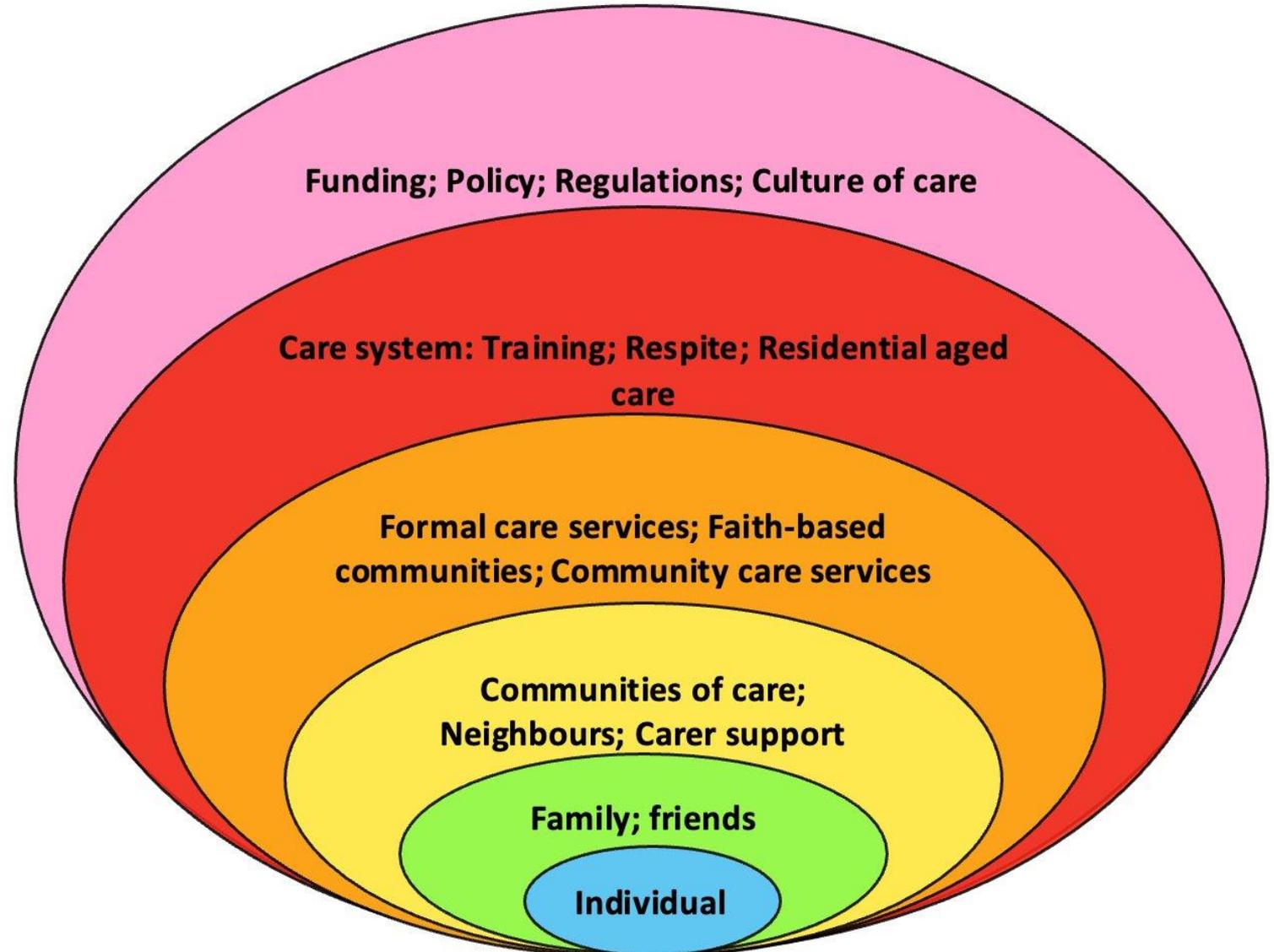
Illustration by Shanice da Costa

Care Ecosystem - Components



Ecology of care: integration, interdependence and collaboration between:

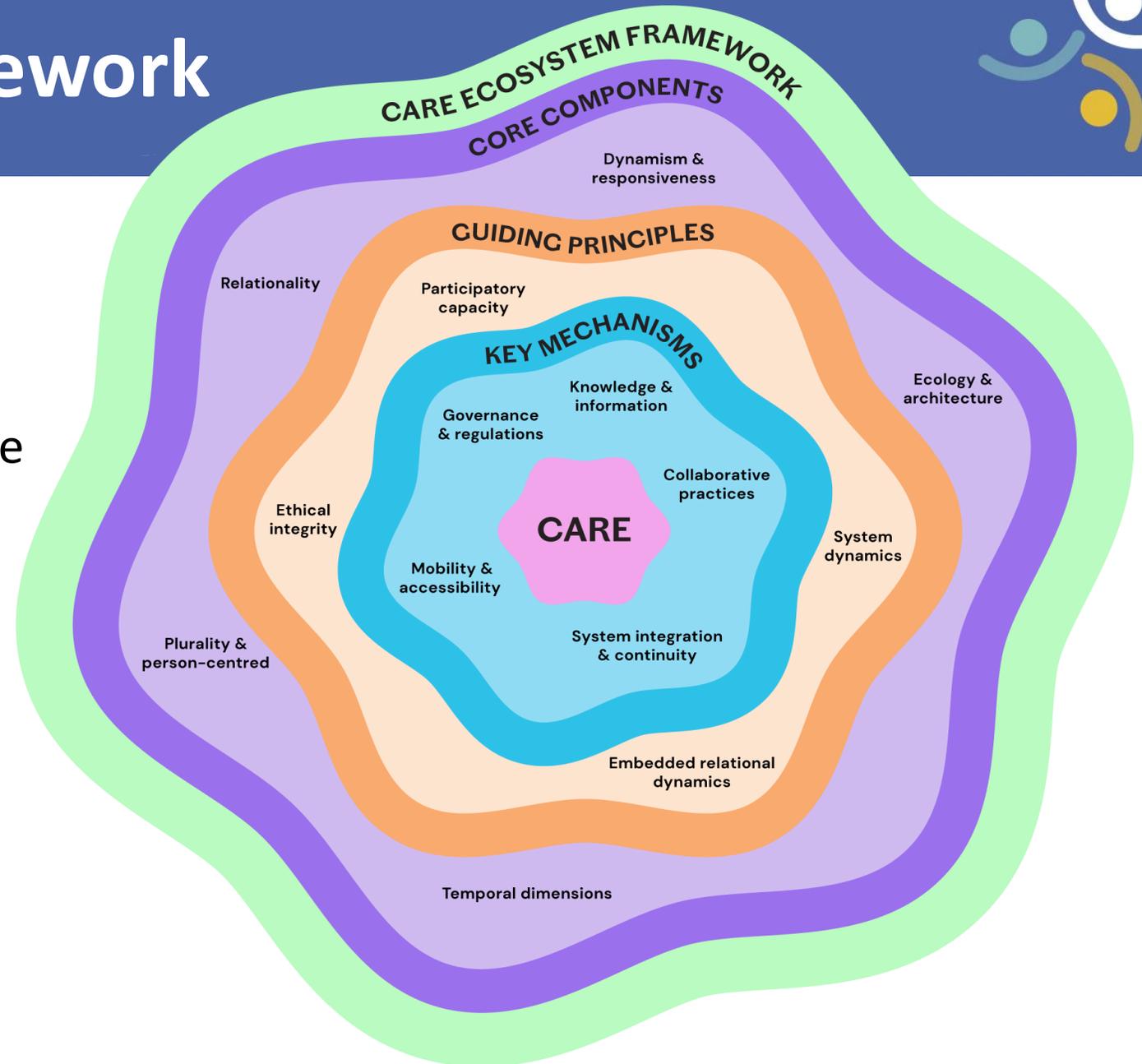
- Care actors
- Resources
- Relationships
- Infrastructure
- Governance



Care Ecosystem Framework



- Care is dynamic and relational
- Responsive and adaptive to change
- Contains:
 - Collaborative relationships
 - Interconnected flows
 - Integrated care delivery



Care Ecosystem - Knowledge Traditions



- Life course perspective
- Social determinants of health
- Systems thinking
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Evidence-informed practice
- Equity and justice (social, climate and economic)



Care Ecosystem - Practical Processes



- Cross-sector coordination
- Policy levers
- Community engagement
- Data and monitoring systems
- Capacity building
- Technology integration



Cross-generational beekeeping in Courtney Martin's cohousing community.

Care Ecosystem - Dynamics



- Bidirectional flows of care
- Non-linear and adaptive
- Unpredictable patterns
- Interdependence
- Feedback loops

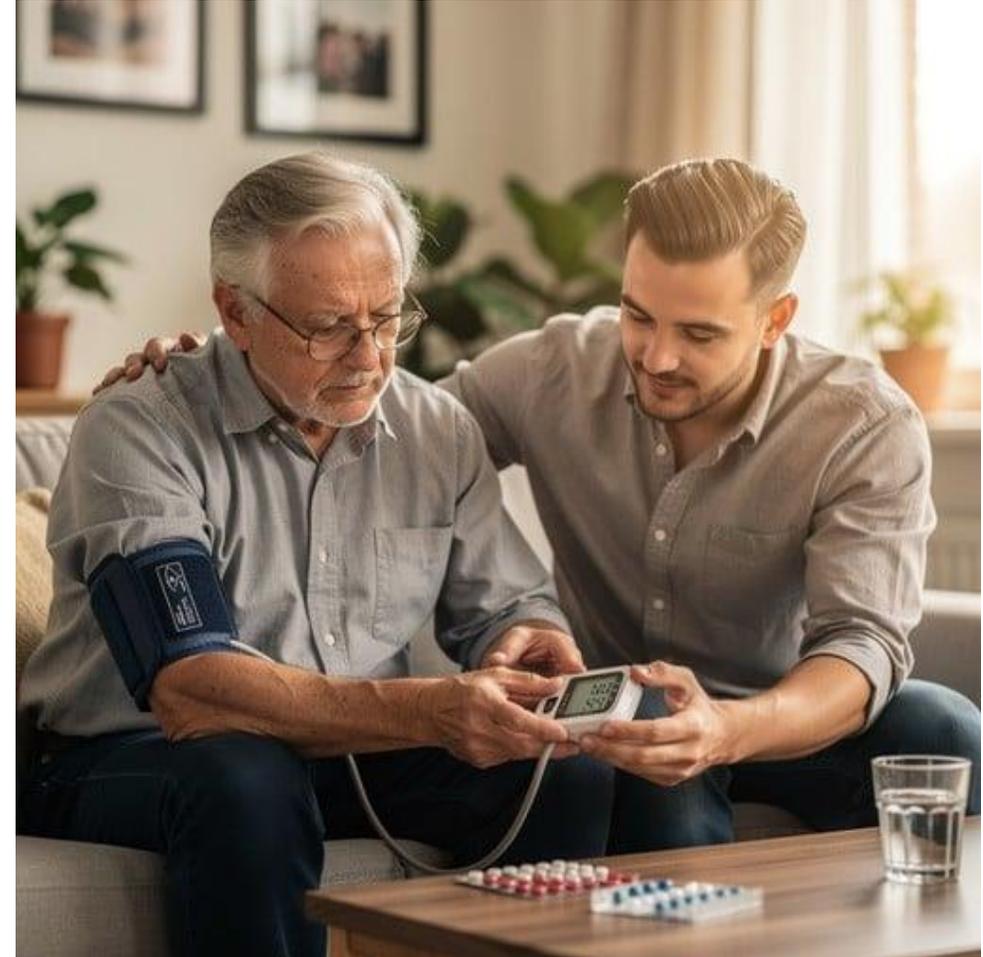


Advancing intergenerational solidarity and equity through care ecosystems



Key Themes

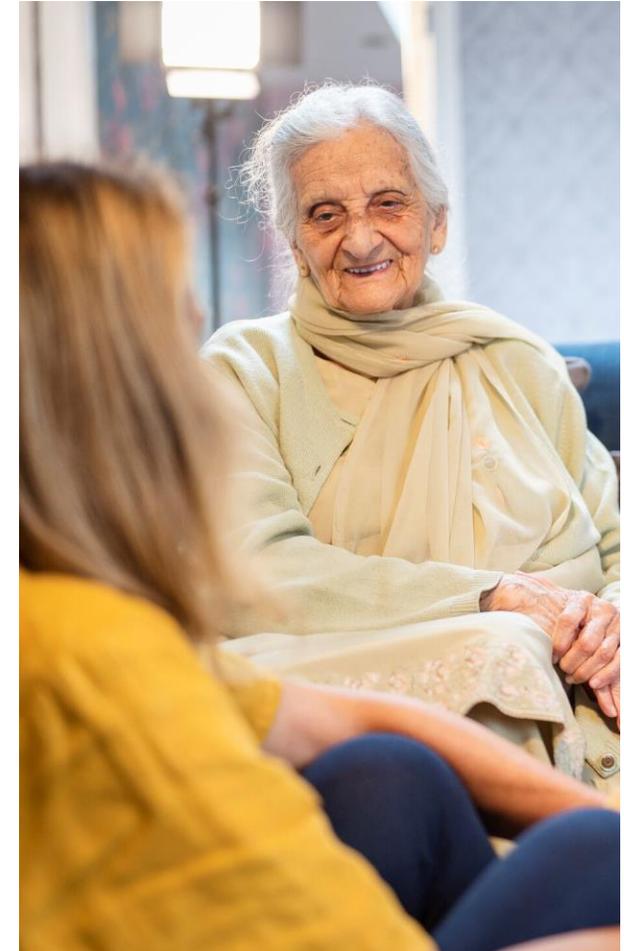
- Equitable investment
- Age-responsive health systems
- Workforce strategies
- Digital inclusion
- Climate justice



Economic and Social Pressures



- Affordability of care
- Sandwich generation stress
- Sex-based burden
- Income inequality
- Changing family structures



Environmental and Cultural Changes



- Expectations of living standards
- Climate impacts on care systems
- Urbanization and migration
- Cultural diversity
- Resilience under stress



Global Enablers



- Policy frameworks
- Integrated care models
- Digital inclusion
- Cultural values
- International collaboration



Global Barriers



- Economic constraints
- Workforce shortages
- Gender inequities
- Geopolitical instability
- Climate stressors



The aged care sector has welcomed the arrival of the first cohort of Pacific workers but says it will have a limited impact. (Supplied: CapeCare)

Case Spotlight – Australia



- Bushfire recovery hubs
- Vic emergency app and social media group
- Youngster.co
- Community and Neighbourhood Houses
- Foodshare & Men's Sheds
- Volunteering
- Indigenous-led initiatives



The Wilsons fought to save their family home and their neighbours' on the outskirts of Harcourt. (ABC News: Danielle Bonica)



Plans in action: Murchison Men's Shed president Dennis McCullagh reviews FoodShare Station blueprints with the enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 students from Murchison Primary School. Photo by Kelly Carmody



The United Sikhs volunteers in Bairnsdale: 'We want to be part of the mainstream.' Photograph: Gurvinder Singh



Case Spotlight – Global



- Adopt a grandparent (Spain/Malta)
- Aoi Care (Japan)
- Intergenerational care (Australia)



<https://www.omnesmag.com/en/news/experiences/initiatives/adopts-a-grandparent-connecting-members-of-different-generations>

<https://www.toyproject.net/2017/04/innovative-intergenerational-care-in-fujisawa-japan/>

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Why does this matter? We need to:

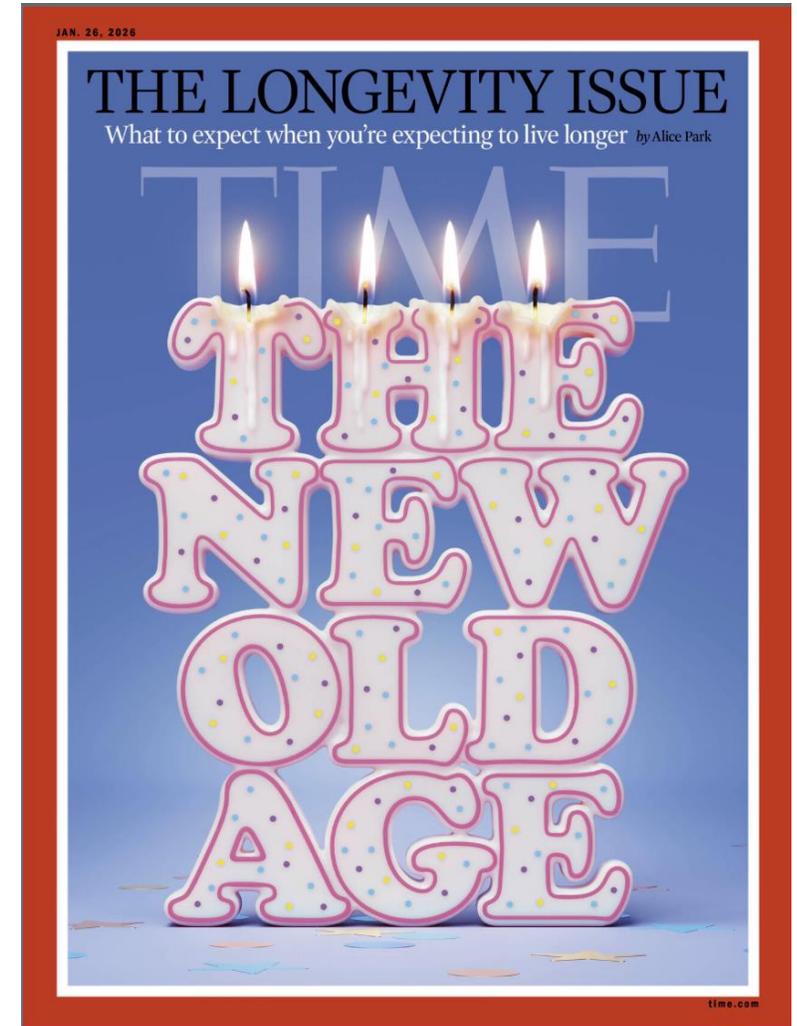
- Work together across generations
- Ensure fair access to care and resources
- Create spaces for young and old to connect
- Build strong community networks
- Support lifelong learning and digital inclusion
- Protect the planet and economy for all generations





Policy Takeaways

- Build integrated care systems
- Support informal caregivers
- Promote digital inclusion
- Lifelong learning and resilience





Call to Action

- Build sustainable care ecosystems
- Champion integrated approaches
- Prioritize equity in care access
- Invest in workforce development
- Empower communities as care partners



Thank you



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