

The logo for the University of New England, featuring the letters 'une' in a stylized, lowercase, green font.

University of
New England

SEXUALITY & PRIVACY In Residential Aged Care

A photograph of an elderly couple embracing from behind. The woman has short, curly white hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The man has short white hair and is wearing a tan jacket. They are outdoors, with green foliage visible in the background.

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OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT

How does New Zealand
address couple privacy?

What can Australia learn?



Aged 65+
3,263,300

2012

with disability
1,171,300 (52.7%)

without disability
1,542,700 (47.3%)

in private
dwelling
2,950,900
(90.4%)

in cared
accommodation
180,100
(5.5%)

in other non-
private dwelling
132,500
(4.1%)

DEATHS in AUSTRALIA

104,443 people aged 65+

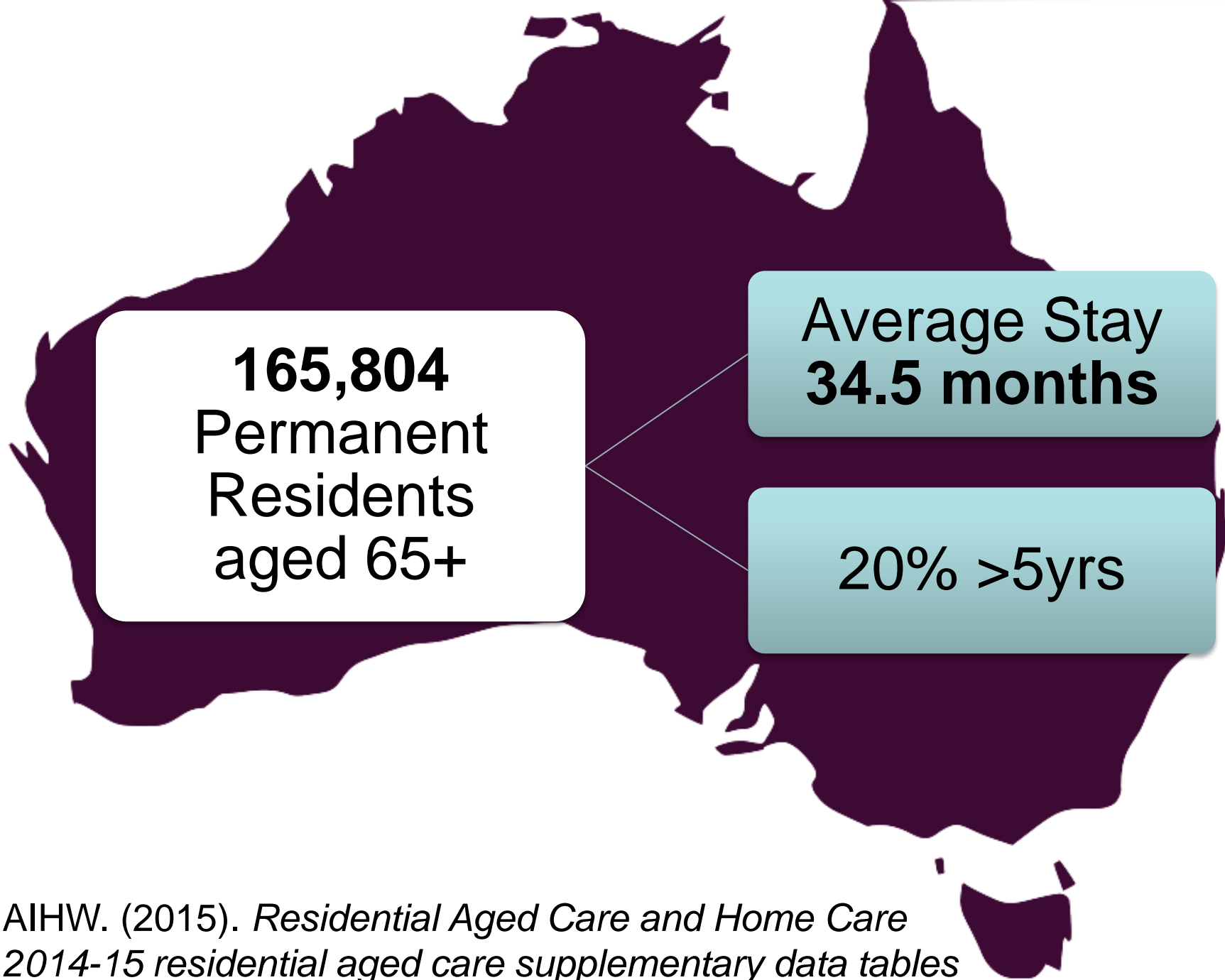
334,210 people
over a decade

14%
at home
(NZ 28%)

32% RAC (NZ 38%)
33,421 p.a.

54% in hospital
(NZ 34%)

Broad, J.B. et al. (2013). Where do people die? *International Journal of Public Health*, 58(2), 257-267.



AIHW. (2015). *Residential Aged Care and Home Care 2014-15 residential aged care supplementary data tables*

A map of Australia is shown in a light blue color. Overlaid on the map is a large, semi-transparent white box containing text. The text is centered and reads: "2014-15:", "51,444 married or de facto residents", and "(30% of permanent residents aged 65+)".

2014-15:

51,444 **married or de facto** residents
(30% of permanent residents aged 65+)

*Sexuality is “a **central** aspect of being human **throughout life**”*

World Health Organisation, 2006

HEALTH BENEFITS

Couples in healthy relationships enjoy

- Better physical health
- Better mental health
- Better sleep
- Longer, better quality life

Charter of Residents' Rights 1990-2016

personal, civil, legal and consumer rights

dignity and respect

personal privacy

safe, secure and homelike environment

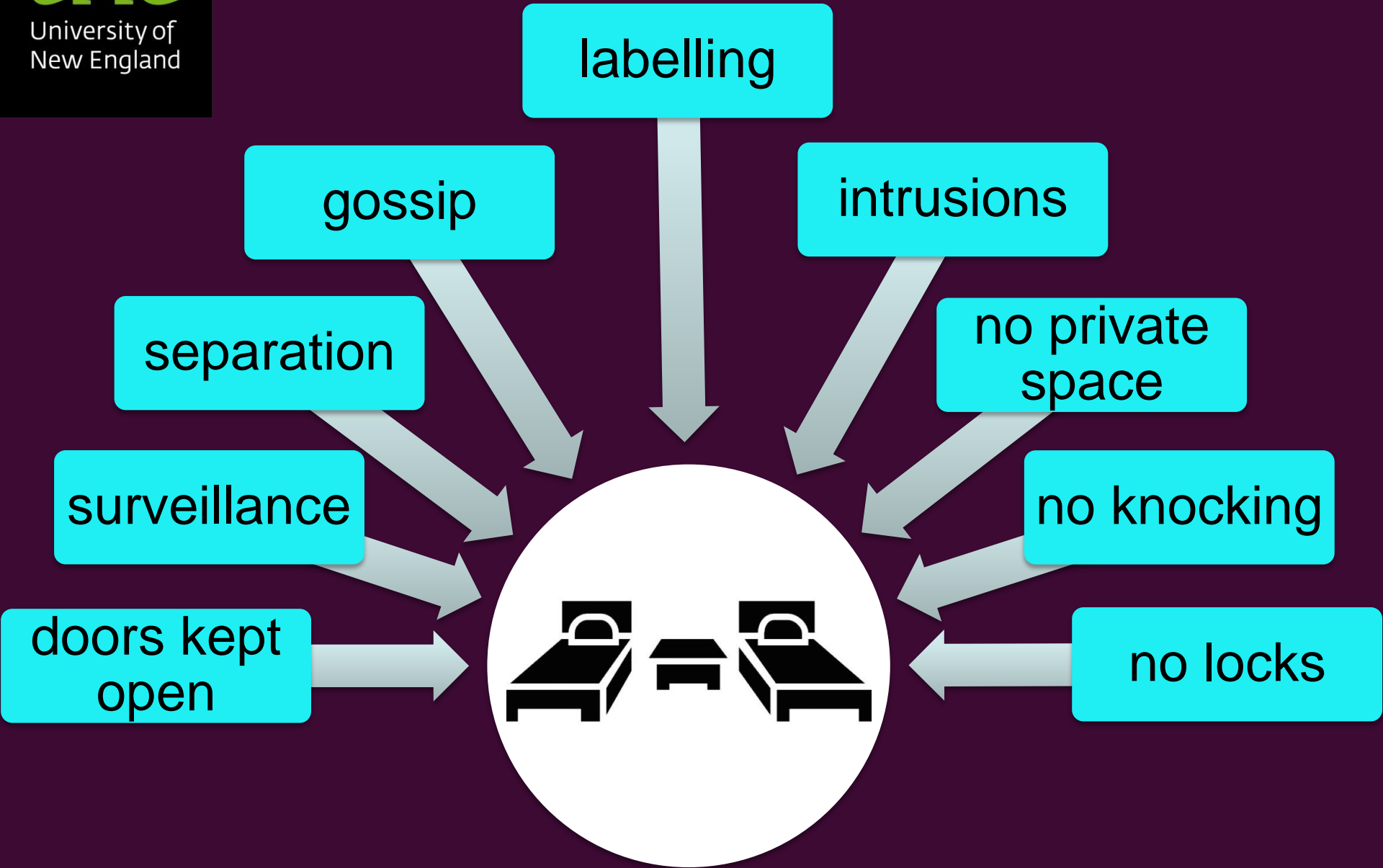
select and **maintain personal relationships**

control over his/her daily life

SEXUAL PRIVACY

*“Sexual conduct involving only **consenting adults** acting in private is not to be subject... to any arbitrary interference with privacy”*

Human Rights (Sexual Conduct) Act 1994





COUPLES:
what are the **privacy needs**
of partnered aged care residents?

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Phase 2
Review of parliamentary
documents & print news
1974 - 2015

**STUDY
DESIGN**

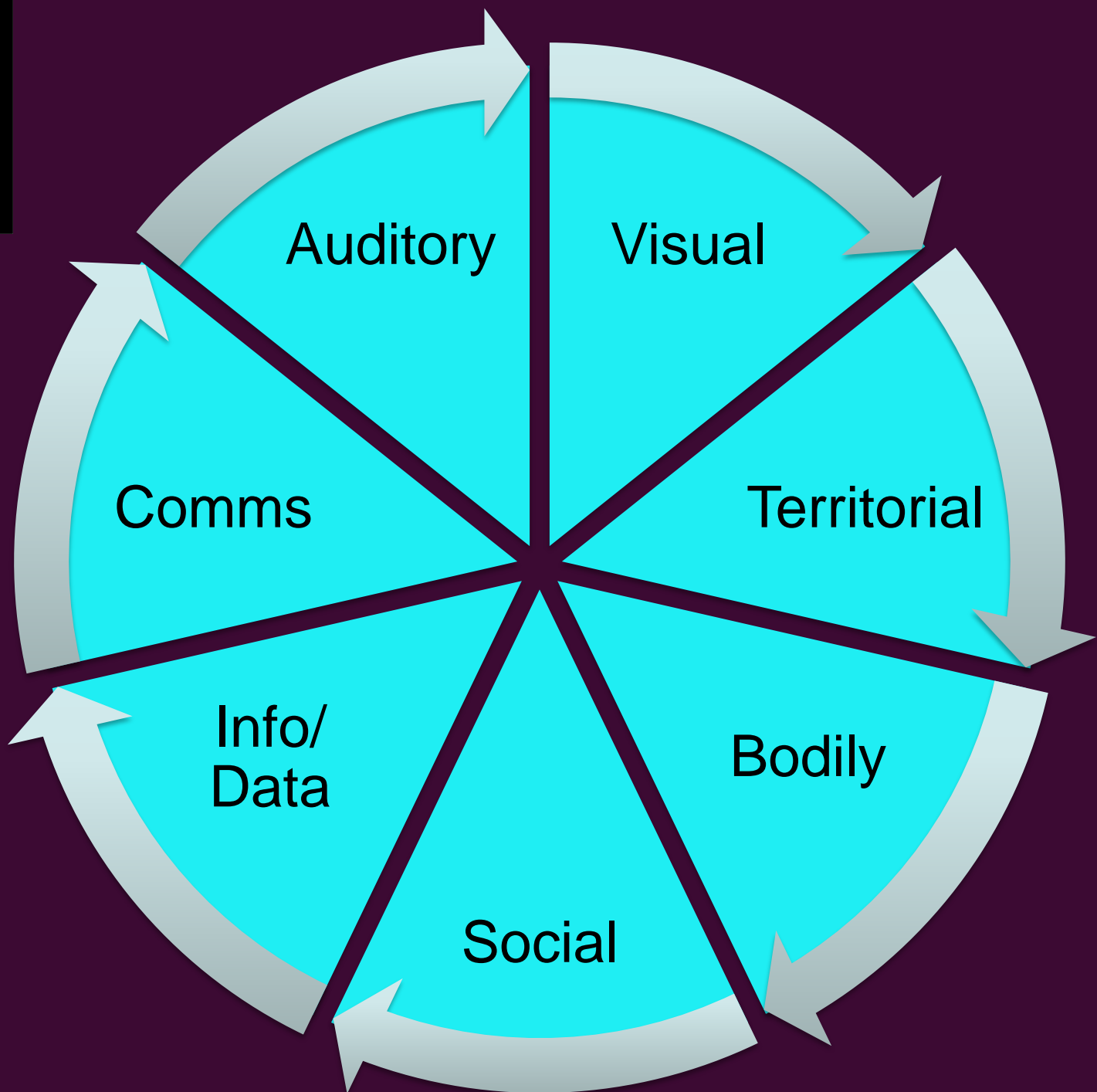
Phase 1
semi-structured
interviews
29 participants
(purposive sampling)

Phase 3
anonymous
online survey
168 participants
(volunteer sampling)

DEFINING PRIVACY

*“...beyond the negative conception of privacy as **freedom from unwarranted intrusion**...to include the positive right **to establish, develop and fulfill one's own emotional needs.**”*

Simon Bronitt, 1995, re the European Convention on Human Rights



IMPLICATIONS for PROVIDERS

Resident Feedback

Resident Needs Assessment

Staff Training

Double beds

Built Environment

Policies & Practices



ANY
QUESTIONS
?