



4 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 11 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Can I please have a copy of the below document.
Report - The Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 Strategy
- Implementation Update*

The Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 strategy for New Zealand’s ageing population was launched in 2019 to help ensure that there are opportunities for New Zealanders to participate, contribute and be valued as they age.

The Better Later Life strategy includes five key areas:

- achieving financial security and economic participation
- promoting healthy ageing and improving access to services
- creating diverse housing choices and options
- enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection, and
- making environments accessible.

You can read more about the Strategy and the Better Later Life Action Plan here: <https://officeforseniors.govt.nz/better-later-life-strategy/>

Please find attached a copy of the report titled ‘The Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 Strategy – Implementation Update’.

You will note that information regarding an individual is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 Strategy – Implementation Update, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Diane Turner
Director
Office for Seniors



Report

Date: 28 April 2023

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Ginny Andersen, Minister for Seniors

REP/23/5/365

The Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 Strategy - Implementation Update

Purpose of the report

This report provides you with an update on the Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 Strategy and Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua Action Plan 2021-2024 (the Action Plan). This includes milestones and a timeline for a two-yearly Cabinet-mandated report back on implementation of the Strategy.

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** that the Better Later Life Strategy provides the primary organising framework for Seniors portfolio priorities and is a 2020 Manifesto Commitment
- 2 **note** that an update on progress implementing the Better Later Life Strategy is due to be presented to Cabinet in 2023, in line with the Cabinet mandate agreed when the Strategy was first published in 2019 [CAB-19-MIN-0487]
- 3 **agree** to discuss your preferences for ongoing reporting on implementation of the Action Plan that gives effect to the Better Later Life Strategy

Agree / Disagree

- 4 **agree** to take an update paper to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee in August in line with the proposed timeline in Appendix 1

Agree / Disagree

after election period

1/5/2023

Diane Turner, Director
Office for Seniors

Date

Hon Ginny Andersen
Minister for Seniors

7-4-23

Date

Background

- 1 Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 (the Strategy) is the Government's strategy for our ageing population. It aims to ensure that older New Zealanders can lead valued, connected and fulfilling lives.
- 2 The Strategy identifies five key areas for action that guide the work of central government, local government, iwi, NGOs, and the wider community:
 - Achieving financial security and economic participation
 - Promoting healthy ageing and improving access to services
 - Creating diverse housing choices and options
 - Enhancing opportunities for social connection
 - Making environments accessible
- 2 Ongoing implementation of the Strategy is one of four commitments included in the "Seniors" section of the 2020 Labour Party election manifesto.¹

Implementing the Strategy

- 3 Cabinet mandated two-yearly updates on the implementation of the Strategy to achieve its objectives [CAB-19-MIN-0487]. The first two-yearly Cabinet update in 2021 provided an update and also sought permission to release the first Action Plan to support progress of the Strategy [CAB-21-MIN-0314].
- 4 The first Action Plan for the period 2021 to 2024 sets out 25 actions across three priority areas within the wider objectives of the Strategy:
 - Employment
 - Digital Inclusion
 - Housing
- 5 A further 10 actions were adapted or carried over from the "initial actions" included in the Strategy, and relate to its broader objectives, rather than the three priorities.
- 6 These actions are the responsibility of a range of different government agencies and are in large part funded within departmental baselines or through independent funding streams. However, the Office was funded through Budget 2021 (totalling \$490,000 in the 2022/23 financial year) and Budget 2022 (totalling \$1.062 million in the 2022/23 financial year) to implement the Strategy. The bulk of this funding is committed to implementing three projects the Office has underway, each of which is an action under the Action Plan:
 - Digital literacy training programme (REP/22/6/611 refers)
 - Senior Enterprise pilot (REP/22/6/559 refers)
 - Homeshare pilot (REP/22/5/388 refers)

Monitoring Progress

- 7 Two-yearly Cabinet reporting is the primary means by which progress against the Strategy is tracked.
- 8 In addition, a set of statistical indicators was published in 2019 and 2022 to help track the broader outcomes contemplated by the Strategy. The frequency with

¹ Another of the commitments was to establish an Aged Care Commissioner. Two others fall within other Ministerial portfolios: supporting the goals of the Dementia Action Plan and maintaining the current entitlement age and relative rate of NZ Superannuation.

which most of the Stats NZ data sources the indicators rely on are collected mean that a three-yearly reporting cycle is appropriate. We therefore expect the next indicator update to be published in 2025.

- 9 More regular monitoring of the progress on implementing the Strategy and Action Plan is overseen by the Better Later Life Ministerial Steering Group (REP/23/2/051 refers). To date, the Ministerial Steering Group has considered quarterly reports (see for example REP/22/7/667). The format and frequency of these reports is intended to provide useful information to you as responsible Minister and the other members of the Ministerial Steering Group to enable you to hold agencies responsible for delivery. The Office can modify this reporting based on your preferences.

Update on the Strategy and outcomes to Cabinet in August 2023

- 10 The next two-yearly report on progress implementing the Strategy is due to be presented to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee this year.
- 11 Reporting to Cabinet will allow us to:
- highlight achievements through the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan
 - raise awareness about challenges and opportunities for older people
 - consider possibilities for a government response to address these
 - engage Ministers in portfolio areas outside of those who are part of the Ministerial Steering Group
- 12 The update will incorporate some data analysis against the Better Later Life Strategy key indicators. This will not involve a full review of data given that most Census data is not scheduled for release until 2024.
- 13 A proposed timeline for this process is set out as Appendix 1. This timeline may need to change in light of Cabinet Committee prioritisation and scheduling.

Next steps

- 14 We will keep you updated on progress developing a Cabinet report back in line with the proposed timeline. We will prepare the next quarterly update on implementation of the Action Plan (covering the January to March 2023 quarter) in line with your preferences for reporting, and with a view to its discussion at a Ministerial Steering Group meeting still to be scheduled.

Author: s9(2)(a) Senior Advisor, Office for Seniors

Responsible manager: George Minton, Manager, Office for Seniors

Appendix 1 - Proposed Indicative Timeline for Cabinet Update

Activity	Date
Draft Cabinet paper and response to Minister for Seniors	Thursday 25 May
Departmental consultation on draft Cabinet paper and response	Monday 5 June
Revised Cabinet paper and response to Minister for Seniors	Thursday 22 June
Ministerial consultation on draft Cabinet paper and response	Thursday 29 June
Final draft to Minister for Seniors	Thursday 20 July
Cabinet paper lodgement	Thursday 27 July
Social Well-being Committee consideration	Wednesday 2 August
Cabinet consideration	Monday 7 August

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