



Office for Seniors  
Te Tari Kaumātua

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

# Aide-mémoire

## Cabinet paper

**Date:** 13 September 2019      **Security Level:** Cabinet Sensitive

**For:** Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Seniors

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## Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034

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<b>Cabinet Committee</b>	Social Wellbeing Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	18 September 2019
<b>Proposal</b>	You are seeking agreement from Cabinet to release the final strategy, Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 (the strategy) and to establish a Ministerial Steering Group to monitor the strategy.
<b>Development of the strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In February 2018 Cabinet agreed to the development of a new strategy for New Zealand’s ageing population [CAB-18-MIN-0039].</li><li>• In May 2018 the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee agreed to a full public engagement process to develop the strategy with two phases of stakeholder engagement [SWC-18-MIN-0062].</li><li>• The first phase of stakeholder engagement focused on identifying the key issues of the Strategy and received a high level of public interest. A draft strategy was developed to reflect what people said was important.</li><li>• The second phase of stakeholder sought feedback on the draft strategy. There was a high level of support for the direction of the strategy.</li><li>• The strategy aligns with other government strategies including the New Zealand Carers’ Strategy 2008, Healthy Ageing Strategy 2016, New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 and Employment Strategy 2019. The strategy also considers broader government and international frameworks.</li><li>• The final strategy Better Later Life- He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034 is now ready to be released subject to your agreement.</li></ul>
<b>Why we need a new strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We need to make sure New Zealand embraces the opportunities that an ageing population and longevity bring.</li></ul>

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- This strategy is designed to test our thinking and focus on the priorities for action to help ensure New Zealand is a great place to age.
    - The strategy will help ensure we create opportunities for everybody to participate, contribute and be valued as we age.
    - The strategy focuses on those aged 65+, but also considers the next generation of older people.

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## The strategy

To achieve the vision of 'older New Zealanders lead valued, connected and fulfilling lives', five key areas for action were identified.

These **key areas for action** are all equally important:

- *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*
- *Making environments accessible*

The key areas for action are informed by the five **guiding principles** of:

- *Valuing people as they age*
- *Keeping people safe*
- *Recognising diversity and that everyone is unique*
- *Taking a whole-of-life and whānau-centred approach to ageing*
- *Taking collective responsibility to plan and act for later life*

### Action plan and initial actions

- Although a detailed action plan to implement the strategy is being developed, the strategy identifies some initial actions across government that are already underway and contributing to the five key areas for action.
- The initial actions are being funded out of baselines, or already have funding allocated to them.

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## Cross-government action is required

- To implement this cross-agency strategy and make a significant impact, the strategy relies on central government, local government, community organisations and communities prioritising actions and allocating resources to address the key areas for action within it.
  - I am proposing a Ministerial Steering Group comprised of myself and Ministers whose portfolios align with the Key Areas for Action be established to monitor the strategy.
  - It is intended that the Ministerial Steering Group would be reviewed by Cabinet every two years (in 2021, then 2023 as part of the first review, and every two years thereafter).
  - The Ministerial Steering Group will be complemented by an Officials Steering Group. The Officials Steering Group will meet regularly to manage implementation issues, identify and mitigate risks and track progress.
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**Next steps**

- Contingent on Cabinet's agreement, I will establish a Ministerial Steering Group to monitor the strategy and an Official's Steering Group.
- Over the next two years, officials will develop an overarching action plan to implement the strategy. The action plan will cover the period 2021-2024 and will detail which agency is responsible for each action.
- I have agreed to a launch event on 1 November 2019 to be held in Parliament buildings. In association with the launch, I will host a forum focused on participation in work by older people.

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